

Romania unveils nuclear prowess

VIENNA (AP) — Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu has made what is believed to be his first public acknowledgment that his country has the capability to make nuclear weapons, according to Saturday media reports. The state news agency Agerpres, based in Bucharest, quoted Ceausescu as making the statement Friday in Bucharest. "We can produce any equipment and machinery, let us commit ourselves to be competitive in any domain with the best products turned out in the world," Agerpres quoted Ceausescu as saying. "In only one domain we do not want to do it — that of nuclear weapons. Technically, we have this ability as well, but we do not want to commit ourselves to it, for we are firmly resolved to fight against nuclear weapons." Ceausescu reportedly told the Socialist Democracy and Unity Front, a communist-led organization. The statement followed uncorroborated reports last August that Ceausescu mentioned Romania's ability to make nuclear weapons to Hungarian Communist Party leader Karmel Gross at a meeting the two had in the Romanian town of Arad. The Agerpres report gave no further details of Ceausescu's statement on nuclear weapons.

Jordan Times

An independent political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Volume 14 Number 4863

AMMAN SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 1989, RAMADAN 10, 1409

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

King, Arafat review latest developments

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and Palestine President Yasser Arafat Saturday discussed the latest developments in the regional and international scenes and efforts for peace in the Middle East.

Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, arrived here late Saturday for a brief visit, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The King's meeting with Arafat was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, the King's special and political advisors, Petra said.

On the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by PLO executive committee member Abdul Razak Al Yahya, PLO representative in Amman Omar Khatib, PLO representative in Cairo Sa'id Kamal and Arafat's advisor Bassam Abu Sharif. Egyptian presidential advisor Osama Al Baz, who arrived here along with Arafat, also attended the meeting.

Upon his arrival, Arafat was received with a state welcome ceremony led by His Majesty, Prince Hassan, Rifai, Field Marshal Sharif Zaid, Qasem and other senior officials.

The talks between the King and Arafat were believed to have been aimed at coordinating positions and consultations ahead of this week's visit to the U.S. by the King.

In a press conference in Baghdad Friday, Arafat paid tribute to the King's role and efforts in serving the Palestinian cause in the face of Israel's expansionist policies.

Jordan, Egypt and the PLO have a unified stand with regard to the Palestine issue agreed on at the Ismailia meeting last month, Arafat said Friday.

He said that the three parties agreed on means of ending Israel's occupation of the Palestinian land through the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 605, both of which emphasise the need for withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem.

Arafat also said the United States ignores Israel's violence against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Arafat said that the killing of



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday holds talks with Palestine President Yasser Arafat (Petra photo)

eight Palestinians in the West Bank village of Nahalin Thursday was an atrocity.

He also called the attack an affront to the administration of U.S. President George Bush because it took place while Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was touring the United States.

Arafat said the recent proposals by Shamir to hold elections in the occupied territories were "a waste of time" and challenged Shamir to come up with "a bold initiative".

While in the United States, Shamir proposed allowing elections in the occupied territories to elect Palestinians that would negotiate autonomy for the 1.7 million Palestinians living there.

Arafat said the PLO had put forward its own three-point initiative for a peace settlement which calls for an Israeli troop withdrawal, deployment of U.N. forces to protect the Palestinians and granting the Palestinians their rights to self-determination.

"When we will be able to exercise self-determination, we will be ready for elections under U.N. auspices," he said.

Arafat dubbed Shamir's proposal "a balloon test," and said the PLO would not accept a settlement short of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

"Shamir is playing the clown in the Israeli political circus... and we are not ready to render our cause a game in this circus," he said.

Arafat described recent state-

ments by American officials as "positive," but he said the Bush administration's involvement in the peace process was "very slow."

He said the PLO expects the Americans will come up with new ideas when the U.S.-PLO dialogue resumes later this month or early in May.

He also expressed hope that King Hussein would be able to convince the Bush administration to be more actively involved in the effort to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and reach a settlement to the Palestinian issue.

"I am sure (the King) will do his best to confront the Israeli balloon test and push the Americans to support the Arab demand for a settlement based on full implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242," he said.

He said he will meet with the King and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt when the Monarch returns from Washington to reevaluate the American position on the peace moves.

Arafat said he will meet next month with French President Francois Mitterrand, which will mark a significant move by the French government to upgrade its contacts with the PLO.

But he refused to say whether the meeting will be held in Paris or in Cairo, where Mitterrand will make a private visit in May. Reports have suggested that the meeting might take place in the Egyptian capital.

King cables good wishes to Assad

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday paid tribute to the Iraqi president, people and armed forces for their great sacrifices during the eight-year Gulf war with Iran and congratulated Iraq on the occasion of the first anniversary Monday of the liberation of the Fao Peninsula.

In a cable to the president, King Hussein wished him continued health and happiness and further progress and prosperity for the Syrian people.

Exchange of views

Friday evening the King received a telephone call from Assad. The two leaders exchanged views about current Arab affairs of common concern as well as developments in the international arena.

Liberation of Fao turning point — King

armed forces' military capability and underlined the Iraqi people's determination to achieve victory," the King said.

The King described the Iraqi victory at Fao as a turning point in the Gulf war, signalling the beginning of the end and total collapse of the Iranian army.

He said that the Fao battle had been recorded in history as one that brought about a total reverse in Iran's military and political stands. The Fao victory, the King added, was an expression of the devotion of the Iraqi armed forces and people to defend their soil and protecting the Arab Order.

Royal Decree endorses Election Law amendment

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Saturday endorsing a cabinet decision to amend the Election Law of 1986. The amendment abolishes West Bank seats in the Lower House of Parliament and increases the number of total seats in the House to 72 from 71, with the additional seat earmarked for the Amman constituency. The amendment cancels 11 seats allo-

cated in the 1986 law for the refugee camps in the Kingdom, and grants the right to the camp residents to nominate themselves and vote in their respective areas.

The amendment enhances the guarantees governing the proper conduct of the election process and increases the time limit for objections on voters lists.

It also facilitates and simplifies

the election procedures and tasks of election committees. The other provisions and articles of the Election Law were unaffected by the amendment. The law was endorsed by the Lower House of Parliament before it was dissolved in 1988 following Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank.



Israeli soldiers check identity cards of Palestinians in occupied Jerusalem

Two more shot dead as occupied lands brace for Abu Jihad anniversary

Palestinians under mass curfew on 'day of rage'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel troops shot dead a Palestinian in the West Bank Saturday and clamped widespread curfews on the occupied territories ahead of a Palestinian "day of rage."

Hospital officials in Beit Jala near Bethlehem said Imad Mohammad Karake, 23, from the Dheishe refugee camp in the West Bank died from a bullet wound.

Dheishe was already under curfew before the shooting as Israeli forces braced themselves for Sunday's first anniversary of the assassination in Tunis of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) military chief Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad).

The army confined about 300,000 Palestinians in the West Bank and more than half of the Gaza Strip's 650,000 residents to their homes Saturday. All eight Gaza refugee camps and most West Bank refugee camps were under curfew.

Karake's death brought the unofficial toll to 434 Palestinians killed since the uprising began in December 1987.

The latest communiqué of the unified command of the uprising is dedicated to Abu Jihad and calls for a "day of rage" Sunday in protest.

Abu Jihad was gunned down outside his home in Tunis April 16, 1987. At the time, Israeli sources confirmed media reports that Israeli secret agents carried out the attack. The Israeli government has refused comment.

Late Friday, soldiers fatally shot 18-year-old Bassel Baara in

the West Bank city of Nabulus, the army said.

Baara and other Palestinians dressed in black threw stones and large blocks at an army patrol from roof tops in the Ras Al Ein neighbourhood, the army said. Soldiers opened fire, critically wounding Baara in the head. He died later at the scene.

An Arab reporter said Baara was shot in the back and side as he ran away from soldiers carrying out arrests.

In the West Bank village of Beit Rima, about 100 members of the Palestinian Popular Army in green and black uniforms with hoods brandished axes, knives and clubs during a demonstration for Abu Jihad Saturday.

An army spotter plane flew over and shortly after a helicopter and troops dispersed the protest, an eyewitness told Reuters. The youths scattered to hide in nearby olive groves, ripping off their uniforms as they ran.

News of Abu Jihad's death last year set off unprecedented violence in the occupied territories and the army shot dead 14 Palestinians on the day of the assassination. It was the highest casualty toll for a single day in the uprising.

Security sources said they were expecting further protests after the clash in Nabalin Thursday when border police shot dead at least five Palestinians.

The killings have drawn international condemnation of the Israeli border police who launched a search-and-arrest mission in the village before dawn Thursday.

In several towns in the West Bank and Gaza, residents staged strikes to honour the dead from Nabalin.

In a statement issued Saturday, the Bethlehem municipality said: "An Israeli military force conducted a campaign of repression in Nabalin... opening fire indiscriminately and resulting in a massacre. These actions are in clear violation of the human rights and Geneva conventions and basic international law."

Villagers said border police entered Nabalin before dawn, shouted obscenities at worshippers leaving morning prayers at a mosque and then opened fire.



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday receives Algerian Foreign Minister Bousalem Bessaiel (Petra photo)

King receives Algerian message

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received a message from Algerian President Chadli Benjedid on developments on the Arab scene and Algerian-Jordanian relations.

The message was delivered to the King by Algerian Foreign Minister Bousalem Bessaiel at the Royal Court in a meeting attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem.

Bessaiel later left Amman for Baghdad and said in a statement that his talks in Amman covered means of bolstering bilateral ties. Qasem saw off Bessaiel upon his departure.

Beirut war turns fiercer

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A 72-year-old right-wing parliamentarian was killed Saturday when a rocket hit his apartment building in east Beirut amid renewed shelling duels, police said.

A total of 14 seriously wounded rightists were ferried to a French navy hospital ship anchored off Beirut as a French humanitarian mission got underway, but it was unclear whether their rivals would participate.

Police said intermittent shelling duels intensified before sundown as gunners from both sides blasted Beirut and its surroundings with heavy artillery and rockets.

Police said two people were killed and 24 wounded.

The latest casualties raised the overall toll to 217 dead and 751 wounded from the five-week battle between army commander Michel Aoun's 20,000 mostly Christian troops and an alliance of Syrian and Lebanese militia forces.

A police spokesman said the parliamentarian, Louis Abu Sharaif, a Maronite Catholic, was killed by shrapnel after a rocket plowed into a third-floor apartment opposite his in the fashionable Ashrafieh district.

The evacuation of the 14 casualties by patrol boat from the rightist-controlled port of Jounieh had been kept secret until it was over for fear it would be impeded by shelling.

A few hours later volleys of shells slammed into Jounieh and Beirut and shelling later spread to other areas.

The operation was the first achievement of a French aid mission impeded by a militia and diplomatic wrangling.

Acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss, whose government is providing recognition with Aoun's administration, told reporters he was surprised by the French move.

He said French envoy Bernard Kouchner had assured him that rescue operations and the distribution of supplies would take into account both Christian and Muslim areas.

France says it favours neither side. It says the hospital ship and a tanker with much-needed fuel supplies will help Christians and Muslims equally if permitted.

Kouchner accompanied the casualties to the La Rance under cover of darkness and said that he was sorry France could not also evacuate casualties from Muslim areas.

Kouchner told reporters he would continue negotiations with Hoss to let the same help be given to Muslims.

Hoss agreed Wednesday to accept the French aid. But Walid Jumblatt, head of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and a minister under Hoss, objected that Aoun should first lift his blockade of militia-controlled ports which sparked off the shelling.

Rightist demand

One of the leaders of the Lebanese rightist alliance was quoted Saturday as saying the Christians would accept a gradual Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon, watering down the demand for an immediate pullout.

George Edwan, leader of the Tanzim Party, told the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Watan that the only condition was that a pan-Arab force be sent in to monitor Syria's withdrawal from Beirut.

Edwan, one of the Lebanese Front alliance leaders meeting with the Arab League committee on Lebanon, said that a gradual withdrawal "provides a way out of the present impasse, provided that a timetable was laid down for the Syrians' pullout from the other Lebanese territories."

SWAPO pullout stalled

WINDHOEK (Agencies) — South Africa and the United Nations are at loggerheads over the pullout of nationalist fighters from Namibia and the dispute is stopping the U.N. peacekeeping force from doing its job.

"There is a total stalemate," a European diplomat said. "The U.N. and South Africa are still bickering about the interrogation of SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organisation) people and the communications between them is virtually non-existent."

Anwar Cherif, spokesman for the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), said communication with the South African authorities in Windhoek was poor.

He said South Africa had still not informed UNTAG about a battle with SWAPO Thursday in

which seven rebels died, and there was no agreement on how to repatriate rebels to Angola.

The first contingent of U.N. police arrived in Namibia Saturday, but their commander Colonel Klaas Roos told reporters that they would not be deployed in the border war zone until a ceasefire was in effect.

South Africa meanwhile reaffirmed its commitment to letting Namibia become independent, but warned that local security forces will not tolerate violations of a regional peace accord by SWAPO.

In an effort to keep a U.N.-supervised independence plan on track, South Africa extended a Saturday deadline until April 21 for SWAPO guerrillas to withdraw from northern Namibia to

southern Angola.

Battles between the South African-led security forces and SWAPO guerrillas broke out April 1, when a ceasefire was supposed to take effect and the independence process was to begin.

Officials from South Africa, Cuba, and Angola, who signed a regional peace agreement in December, met last weekend and arranged a plan for the guerrillas to withdraw safely from Namibia or report to U.N. checkpoints or churches inside the territory.

About 350 of the 1,600 SWAPO fighters have left Namibia.

Almost all of them have avoided the U.N. evacuation facilities set up inside Namibia for fear of falling into South African army traps.

95 crushed to death at British stadium

SHEFFIELD, England (Agencies) — A stadium fence collapsed under the crush of a crowd at a soccer match Saturday, killing at least 95 people in the worst British sporting disaster, authorities said.

At least 290 people were injured in addition to the 95 killed, said an ambulance service spokeswoman.

The report followed an initial announcement by South Yorkshire police spokeswoman Lindsay MacFarlane that at least 74 people had died.

The accident occurred six minutes into the English Football Association (F.A.) Cup semifinal match between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest, two of England's leading teams, at Hillsborough Stadium in Sheffield, 240 kilometres north of London.

The chain link barrier fence, holding back thousands of excited Liverpool fans, collapsed behind one of the goals, crushing scores of spectators.

The disaster came four years after fire swept through the main stand at the Bradford City Stadium just a few kilometres from Sheffield, killing 56 people. The worst soccer tragedy before Saturday's was in 1971, when 66 people died at Ibrox stadium in Glasgow when a crowd-control barrier collapsed.

In Saturday's tragedy, many fans died as they were forced against fences between the stands and the field. Dozens of others were killed trying to flee out the back, reports said.

The dead were taken away on makeshift stretchers, their heads covered by coats, and others on the field received mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and heart massage, television showed.

Later, as stunned supporters left the ground, the twisted barriers could be seen on the terrace. The metal blue posts had been bent in half by the pressure of the surging crowds.

Police collected clothing and shoes strewn on the field where the fans had spilled out. A kneeling policeman gathered red and white scarves, Liverpool's team colours, from the steps of the

terrace.

A police spokeswoman described the scene as "sheer pandemonium."

The accident apparently occurred when spectators standing on the packed terrace occupied by Liverpool fans pushed forward for a view as the match began.

A surge sent them stumbling downwards, also pushing those in front until the human tidal wave was halted by crush barriers where many were pinioned or trampled underfoot.

Others split onto the pitch. Shirts were draped over the faces of the dead as they were carried out on advertising boardings ripped down and used as stretchers.

Ambulances raced onto the pitch as police struggled to clear a way for the emergency services and doctors tried to resuscitate people crushed at the foot of the concrete terrace of one of Britain's biggest stadiums.

Hundreds of people sat stunned on the grass or searched desperately for friends and relatives lost in the confusion.

The tragedy was the second for fans of Liverpool within five years — they were also involved in the Hysel stadium disaster at Brussels in which 39 people died in 1985.

Most of those victims were crushed to death or suffocated when a wall collapsed under pressure from packed and fighting Liverpool fans during the European Cup final between Liverpool and Italian team Juventus.

The incident led to the banning of English clubs from European competition.

European soccer authorities said this week they would lift the ban at the start of the 1990-91 season if English soccer showed it had solved the problem of hooligan fans.

There had been no sign of fighting on the terraces before Saturday's disaster in Sheffield.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who watched the aftermath of the incident on television, demanded an urgent report on the facts and said she "shared everyone's disbelief as the mounting horror unfolded."

Abu Ghazala appointed Mubarak's assistant

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak appointed Egypt's top soldier as his assistant Saturday, a move which some analysts believed could establish the field marshal as presidential successor.

An official announcement said Defence Minister Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala, a hero of the 1973 war against Israel and long regarded as a potential successor to Mubarak, was appointed to the new post of presidential assistant.

Mubarak, now 60, was vice-president before succeeding assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981, but he has so far not appointed his own vice-president.

Abu Ghazala, 59, was replaced at the Defence Ministry by Cairo Governor Yousef Sabri Abu



Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala, also a professional soldier. Some Egyptian commentators said the reshuffle brought Abu Ghazala closer to the centre of power, while others suggested he would lose his power base in the armed forces.

Abu Ghazala, who was one of Egypt's four deputy prime ministers, was presented Saturday by Mubarak with one of the country's highest decorations, the Collar of the Republic.

Najibullah warns of regional war

KABUL (Agencies) — Afghan President Najibullah told foreign diplomats Saturday that the United States and Pakistan risked provoking a regional war.

"Violations of the Geneva accords by Pakistan and the USA pose a serious threat to the political independence, territorial integrity and national sovereignty of our country as a result of which one cannot consider impossible the danger of a regional war," Najibullah said in a speech marking the first anniversary of the accords.

The agreements, under which the Soviet Union agreed to pull its troops out of Afghanistan, guarantee non-interference in Kabul's affairs.

Najibullah accused Pakistan of planning to annex Afghanistan and giving large quantities of arms to the Mujahideen guerrillas fighting his pro-Soviet government.

"After the completion of the withdrawal of Soviet troops, the military intelligence of Pakistan with the direct and wide support of the armed forces of that country... have resorted to armed and open aggression against our country and disclosed their evil designs of merging our country with Pakistan," Najibullah said.

Arms and funds for the Mujahideen flow through Pakistan but it has repeatedly denied giving the rebels military help in their 10-year-old war to take power in Kabul.

The last Soviet troops pulled out Feb. 15, leaving the Afghan army to take on a loose Mujahideen alliance single-handed.

Najibullah, who is keen to project his government as Islamic

rather than Marxist, began his speech to diplomats and Afghan political and tribal leaders with verses from the Koran.

He said he had offered to share power with the rebels, who have set up a rival government in Pakistan, but "they stubbornly rejected any kind of political settlement."

The Mujahideen had rained 43,273 rockets and shells on various Afghan cities in the past year, killing 2,222 civilians, while Afghan troops had killed almost 36,000 rebels.

"Had the extremists responded to our ceasefire and peace proposals, there would be no bloodshed," he said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Amani said a convoy of food and fuel supplies from the Soviet Union arrived in Kabul Saturday.

The convoy was attacked along the Salang Highway Friday but about 90 trucks managed to break through a Mujahideen blockade.

Amani said the rebels attacked the convoy with rockets but he did not know how many vehicles had been hit. Drivers said at least seven vehicles were damaged.

Kabul Radio said security forces uncovered an arms cache including missiles smuggled into the Afghan capital by the Mujahideen.

It said nine ground-to-ground missiles, a launcher, ammunition and mines were found in a rebel "safe house."

The radio said the guerrillas planned to use the arms to cause destruction and death in the capital.

The Mujahideen have in the past rocketed Kabul from positions in surrounding mountains, mainly hitting civilians in this city of mud-brick houses.

There has been a lull in attacks since April 5, when rebel missiles killed at least six people.

U.S. to continue efforts to ease Mideast tension — Baker

WASHINGTON (USIA) — In an address entitled "Power for Good: American Foreign Policy in the New Era," Secretary of State James Baker told the American Society of Newspaper Editors (ASNE) convention in Washington Friday that the United States would continue its step-by-step effort to ease tensions in the Middle East and encourage dialogue between Israel and the Arab states.

Baker said "the daily violence in the West Bank and Gaza, the stones thrown, the lives lost, are all adding to an already bitter legacy of hatred between Arabs and Israelis."

"I do not doubt that after so many years of strife, there is a very deep yearning on the part of all for peace," the secretary said. "But it's also clear, I think, that the substantive gap between the parties is far too wide, and the atmosphere is far too clouded by violence and tension and mistrust, to launch negotiations now."

"We have therefore been stressing for two months the need for a step-by-step process. Its purpose is to reduce tensions, to

promote dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians, and to build an environment that can sustain negotiations on interim arrangements and permanent status," he said.

Baker said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir "made clear that the status quo was unacceptable" in his discussions in Washington last week. Shamir also emphasised Israel's desire to advance a political process that might ultimately lead to a settlement, and he proposed elections in the occupied territories for Palestinian representatives prepared to negotiate an interim agreement.

"The process would culminate in negotiations on final status. And he said that in those negotiations, all options would be open," the secretary said of Shamir's proposals. "This, we think, is a positive step, and a step that is worthy of further consideration and development," the secretary said.

In the coming weeks, Baker said, the United States "will be discussing with Israel and the Arabs the details of these ideas,

how we might build on them, and how they fit into the larger picture of setting the stage for direct negotiations."

Turning to the Soviet Union, Baker said he would press Soviet leaders to add more "content" to their "new thinking" when he holds talks with Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev next month.

Baker also called "again upon the Soviet government to think anew about its actions here in our hemisphere and about the consequences of those actions for the future," noting that Moscow continues to supply more than \$500 million a year in military aid to Nicaragua.

The purpose of the U.S.-Soviet dialogue "is to deepen and to broaden our cooperative relationship, especially on regional issues," he said, but he cited several areas where he said Soviet "slogans of new thinking lack content." He said that: — Moscow refuses to renounce the Brezhnev doctrine even though it says every member state



James Baker of the socialist family has the right to pursue its own way. — The Soviets seek reduced military force levels in Europe but refuse to remove the Berlin Wall, a symbol of the division of Europe.

— Gorbachev supports the settlement of regional conflicts, but Moscow refuses to "put meat on the bones" of its "new thinking" in Central America.

— While Gorbachev has described the Middle East as "a veritable tinderbox," Moscow has sold sophisticated high performance bombers to Libya.

U.S.: Settlements remain impediment to peace

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — A State Department spokeswoman said Friday that the United States still views Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza as impediments to peace, and urged Palestinians and Israelis to refrain from exacerbating their tensions.

The comments by department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler followed Thursday's clash in the occupied West Bank village of Nablun in which Israeli forces shot and killed at least five Palestinians in one of the bloodiest incidents of the 16-month Palestinian uprising.

An estimated 80,000 Jews live in settlements among an estimated 1.7 million Palestinians, but settlement construction has been scaled back in recent years by budgetary and political constraints.

Under an agreement reached by partners in Israel's coalition government last year, the first of eight new settlements went up last week in the West Bank, not far from the village.

In response to reports that the United States had changed its

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Bahrain's emir to visit Iraq, Egypt

BAHRAIN (R) — The emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, will visit Iraq and Egypt in May to strengthen cooperation between two regional economic alliances, officials said Saturday. They said Sheikh Isa, current chairman of the six-state Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), would discuss ways in which the GCC could develop ties with the newly-formed Arab Cooperation Council (ACC). The GCC links Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates while the ACC, formed Feb. 16, groups Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and North Yemen. The sources said Oman's Sultan Qaboos would visit Cairo and Amman in mid-May as part of the GCC drive to promote relations between the two blocs. The emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, planned visits to Baghdad and Cairo at the end of May or beginning of June, they added.

Algerian river leaves trail of death

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's biggest river is so toxic it is leaving a trail of death and poisoning drinking and irrigation water, the official APS news agency said Friday. "Gases given off are progressively destroying the local ecology, while toxic waste is contaminating the water table making it unfit for human consumption or irrigation," APS said. The Oued Chelif rising in mountains south of Algiers runs westwards across five provinces picking up poisonous effluents from sugar, paper, petro-chemical and plastic plants along its banks and untreated sewage from towns. The result — "the almost total annihilation of the fauna in the river valley" until 500 kilometres from its source it spews the deadly cocktail into the Mediterranean, APS added. Water pollution was five times the acceptable level and could become 15 times too high by the end of the century unless "unbridled urbanisation and excessive industrialisation" was curbed, the agency warned.

No progress in Greek-U.S. talks

ATHENS (R) — The United States and Greece reached no conclusion on the future of American bases on Greek soil as their latest talks ended Friday, government spokesman Sotiris Kostopoulos said. The talks on a new defence and economic cooperation agreement, which include the future of four major U.S. bases and 20 smaller military installations, have been deadlocked almost since they began in November 1987. The spokesman said the 16th round of talks had ended "without any significant development." They are stalled over insistence by Athens that the United States make security pledges concerning Greek territory in the Aegean region in the preamble to a new agreement. Washington has rejected this request, fearing it could be interpreted as taking sides with Greece in its long-running dispute with Turkey. A new accord would also cover U.S. military aid to Greece, currently running at \$350 million a year. Kostopoulos said the talks would resume in May and then be suspended until after the Greek general election June 18. Under the previous defence pact which expired last December, the Americans have to close their bases by mid-1990 unless a new pact is signed.

Blaze put out on Cypriot tanker

ALGIERS (R) — A blaze on board a Cypriot oil tanker loaded with 70,000 tonnes of crude has been put out by firefighters off the Algerian coast, the Algerian news agency APS reported Saturday. The 34-member crew of the tanker Zephyr abandoned ship on Thursday when it caught fire after loading at the Algerian oil terminal of Bejaia. APS said there were no casualties. Fire broke out again in the engine room Friday afternoon, but it had now been put out, the agency said.

Group of Egyptian communists arrested

CAIRO (AP) — Nine alleged leading members of the banned Egyptian Communist Party have been arrested for anti-government activities, the Cairo daily Al Gomhouriya reported in its Saturday edition. The newspaper said "large quantities" of anti-government leaflets were found in their possession when arrested Thursday. No names or further details were given.

3 convicted killers beheaded in S. Arabia

DAMMAM (R) — Three convicted murderers were beheaded in Saudi Arabia Friday, the Interior Ministry said. Saudi Arabia has now reported executing 11 criminals since Ramadan began in the kingdom April 6. The ministry's statement, carried by local newspapers, said Saleh Ameer Fahd, A. Saudi, and Mohammad Fakher, a Pakistani, were beheaded in Mecca, and Babker Awad, a Sudanese, was beheaded in Riyadh.

Iraq to stage world weapons fair

BAGHDAD (R) — Arms manufacturers from around the world will display their wares at a major weapons fair in Baghdad later this month, but the United States and the Soviet Union will not be exhibiting. Iraq said Saturday the two superpowers had not responded to invitations to take part in the exhibition from April 28 to May 2. Britain, China, Egypt, France, Poland, West Germany and Yugoslavia will be among those exhibiting, with the British showing their Harrier jump-jet and the French their Mirage 2000 jet. Lieutenant-General Amer Al Saadi, under-secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialisation, said Iraq would display the home-produced missiles which it used in the war against Iran. He told a news conference that Iraq was keen to sell its military products to other Arab and Third World states. "Iraq decided to put on display... artillery, armour, missiles, infantry light-weapons and electronic systems..." he said.

Andersson condemns Israel over W. Bank attack

STOCKHOLM (R) — Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson has severely criticised Israel, saying its forces massacred Palestinians during an attack on a village in the occupied West Bank. "The massacre on Thursday fills us with disgust and sorrow," Andersson told a meeting of local authority workers Friday. "Israel's persecution of Palestinians in the occupied areas must stop immediately," he said, urging the Israeli government to negotiate with the Palestinians rather than resort to violence.

Text of Shamir's four-point 'peace' proposal

The following text of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's peace plan is reprinted from April 14th issue of The Jerusalem Post.

THE FOUR-POINT PLAN

1. The Camp David Partners — Reconfirmation of the commitment to peace.

Ten years ago, the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt was concluded on the basis of the Camp David Accords. When the accords were signed, it was expected that more Arab countries would shortly join the circle of peace. This expectation was not realised.

The strength of Israeli-Egyptian relations and the cooperation between the three partners to the accords have decisive influence on the chances for Middle East peace, and the Israeli-Egyptian treaty is the cornerstone to the building of peace in the region.

Therefore, the prime minister has called on the three countries whose leaders affixed their signature to the Camp David Accords, the U.S., Egypt and Israel, to renew, 10 years later, their commitment to the agreements and to peace.

2. The Arab countries — From a state of war to a process of peace.

The prime minister urged the U.S. and Egypt to call on the other Arab countries to desist from hostility towards Israel and to replace belligerence and boycott with negotiation and cooperation. Of all the Arab countries, only Egypt has recognised Israel and its right to exist. Many of these states actively participated in wars against Israel by direct involvement or indirect assistance. To this day, the Arab countries are partners in an economic boycott against Israel, refuse to recognise it and refuse to establish diplomatic relations with it.

The solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the building of confidence leading to a permanent settlement require a change in the attitude of the Arab countries towards Israel. Israel, therefore, calls on these states to put an end to this historic anomaly and to join direct bilateral negotiations aimed at normalisation and peace.

3. A solution to the refugee problem — an international effort.

The prime minister has called for an international effort, led by the U.S., and with the significant participation of Israel, to solve the problem of the Arab refugees. The refugee problem has been perpetuated by the leaders of the Arab countries, while Israel with

its meagre resources is absorbing hundreds of thousands of Jewish refugees from Arab countries. Settling the refugees must not wait for a political process or come in its stead.

The matter must be viewed as a humanitarian problem and action must be taken to ease the human distress of the refugees and to ensure for their families appropriate living quarters and self respect.

Some 300,000 people live in refugee camps in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District. In the 1970s, Israel unilaterally undertook the rehabilitation of residents of refugee camps in Gaza and erected 10 neighbourhoods in which 11,000 families reside. This operation was carried out in partnership with the residents despite PLO objections.

The time has now come to ensure appropriate infrastructure, living quarters and services for the rest of the residents of the camps who, at the same time, are victims of the conflict, hostages to it, and an element which perpetuates its continued existence. Goodwill and an international effort to allocate the necessary resources will ensure a satisfactory solution to this humanitarian effort and will help improve the political climate in the region.

4. Free elections in Judea, Samaria and Gaza on the road to negotiations.

In order to bring about a process of political negotiations and in order to locate legitimate representatives of the Palestinian population, the prime minister proposes that free elections be held among the Arabs of Judea, Samaria and Gaza — elections that will be free of the intimidation and terror of the PLO.

These elections will permit the development of an authentic representation that is not self-appointed appointed from the outside. This representation will be comprised of people who will be chosen by the population in free elections and who will express, in advance, their willingness to take part in the following diplomatic process:

The aim of the elections is to bring about the establishment of a delegation that will participate in negotiations on an interim settlement, in which a self-governing administration will be set up. The interim period will serve as an essential test of cooperation and coexistence. It will be followed by negotiations on the final settlement, in which Israel will be prepared to discuss any option

which will be presented.

The U.S. administration has expressed its support for the idea and following the prime minister's return, his proposals will be discussed here, and the various questions surrounding the holding of elections will be examined. Contacts necessary for the implementation of the proposals will be maintained.

Other points contained in Areen's message:

Israel recognises the fact that countries must take risks for peace, and it did so at Camp David. At the same time, Israel cannot be expected to take steps that would endanger its very existence. As is well known, our estimate is that the establishment of an additional state west of the Jordan will create a focus of instability which will endanger the peace, Israel, and the region as a whole.

After a long freeze in the Middle East, the prime minister's initiative creates a new opportunity for moving the peace process forward. For movement towards peace, Israel needs partners and it hopes that these will, indeed, be found.

The involvement of Jordan in the diplomatic process is most important as it is Israel's neighbour, and — by virtue of its demographic and geographic characteristics — the connecting link between the Arab and the Palestinian aspects of the conflict.

For your information, after the publication of the initiative, several Palestinian personalities said in private conversations that the proposals constitute a basis for progress. President Mubarak, too, did not initially reject the prime minister's proposals.

During the prime minister's visit to Washington, it was learned that the Soviet Union is supplying attack aircraft to Libya and Syria, and the exchange of fire in Lebanon increased along with the Syrian involvement there. All these serve as a reminder of the wider context of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

It should be noted that the main aspect of the conflict is the Arab threat to Israel and the refusal of Arab countries to recognise its existence. The quantities of weapons in the Middle East, the continued arming of Arab countries with sophisticated weapons, the recent Iraqi and Libyan use of chemical weapons on the battlefield and against civilians, the character of the regimes and their instability, fundamentalist extremism in the area — all of these serve as a daily reminder of the reality with which Israel must contend —

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 72111-19	18:09 Maghreb
	19:30 'Ida
PROGRAMME ONE	
14:30 Koran	18:09 Maghreb
14:55 Children programmes	19:30 'Ida
15:15 Cooking programme	
15:30 Arabic series	
15:45 Health programme	
15:55 Religious period	
16:10 Ramadan contest	
16:25 Arabic series	
16:40 Programme review	
16:55 News in Arabic	
17:10 Arabic series	
17:25 Programme review	
17:40 Religious series	
17:55 Special programme on Ramadan	
18:10 News in Arabic	
18:25 Varieties	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:40 L'Ecole des Femmes	
18:55 News in French	
19:10 A documentary	
19:25 News in Hebrew	
19:40 Varieties programme	
19:55 News in Arabic	
20:10 Perfect Stranger	
20:25 Captain James Cook	
20:40 News in English	
20:55 A Taste of Death	
PRAYER TIMES	
6:41 Fajr	
11:35 Sunrise/Dhuha	
11:52 Dhuhr	
15:12 'Asr	

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swithead, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terraviva Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625433	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775351	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assiout International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255	
Bahaiyya Congregation Tel. 623415	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Adnan Zaghoul 898140	
Dr. Fayez Jalouneh 624207	
Dr. Hussein Hadad 731267	
Dr. Mahmoud Al Awd 741391	
First pharmacy 661912	
Ferdous pharmacy 778336	
Al Asma pharmacy 637035	
Natroukh pharmacy 623672	
Al Salan pharmacy 636730	
Yacoub pharmacy 644945	
Shmeisat pharmacy 637660	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Adnan Zaghoul 898140	
Dr. Fayez Jalouneh 624207	
Dr. Hussein Hadad 731267	
Dr. Mahmoud Al Awd 741391	
First pharmacy 661912	
Ferdous pharmacy 778336	
Al Asma pharmacy 637035	
Natroukh pharmacy 623672	
Al Salan pharmacy 636730	
Yacoub pharmacy 644945	
Shmeisat pharmacy 637660	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
Abdall Telephone Repairs 661101	
Jordan Television 773111	
Radio Jordan 774111	
Water Authority 680100	
Jordan Electricity Authority 815015	
Electric Power Company 63681	
RJ Flight Information 08-53200	
Queen Aila Int. Airport 08-53200	
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre 818131/32	
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642421/6	
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2	
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362	
Malhas, J. Amman 636140	
Palestine, Shmeisat 664171/4	
Shmeisat Hospital 669131	
University Hospital 845945	
Al-Mustafa Hospital 677229	
The Islamic, Abdall 666127/57	
Al-Ahli, Abdall 664164/6	
Isfahan, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3	
Al-Basrah, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26	
Amn, Marja 891611/5	
Queen Aila Hospital 602240/50	
Amal Hospital 674155	
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323	
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071	
IRBID:	
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555	
Great Catholic Hospital (02)27275	
Jbn Al Nafies Hospital (02)27100	
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111	
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)3200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
09:15 Jeddah (RJ)	
09:30 Cairo, Agaba (RJ)	
09:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)	
09:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)	
10:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)	
10:15 Larana (RJ)	
10:28 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)	
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
10:45 Rome (RJ)	
11:30 Tunis, Cambriga (RJ)	
12:30 Agaba, Cairo (RJ)	
13:40 Kuwait (RJ)	
14:00 Larana (RJ)	
14:15 Baghdad (RJ)	
14:30 Agaba (RJ)	
14:45 Sumat (RJ)	
14:55 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)	
15:00 Cairo (RJ)	
15:15 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)	
15:30 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)	
15:45 Larana (RJ)	
16:28 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)	

MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in lbs per kg.	
Almond 600 / 500	
Apple 300 / 400	
Banana 350 / 300	
Banana (Mukannas) 300 / 250	
Beans 360 / 300	
Broad beans 120 / 100	
Cabbage 90 / 60	
Carrot 190 / 120	
Cauliflower 170 / 120	
Cucumber 240 / 180	
Eggplant 470 / 400	
Garlic 280 / 220	
Lemon 220 / 280	
Lemon (per one) 100 / 70	
Marrow (large) 60 / 40	
Marrow (small) 100 / 70	
Orange (Shmeisat) 370 / 300	
Orange (local) 350 / 300	
Onion (dry) 170 / 140	
Onion (green) 140 / 100	
Pepper (hot) 350 / 300	
Pepper (mild) 260 / 200	
Potato 250 / 200	
Spinach 160 / 120	
Strawberry 1600 / 1200	
Tomato 480 / 400	

Handwritten signature: محمد الجليل



CREDENTIALS: Colombia's non-resident Ambassador to Jordan, David Turbay, has handed a copy of his credentials to Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem. Turbay succeeds Mrs. Virginia Obregon who has served as ambassador to Jordan since 1986 (Petra photo).

Europarlamentarians here

AMMAN (J.T.) — An eight member team of European parliamentarians arrived in Amman Saturday evening in the course of a fact finding tour of the Middle East region. The group whose trip was organised by the Vienna-based headquarters of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), will cross into the occupied territories Sunday where they will spend three days

touring Arab areas and examining Palestinian conditions. The parliamentarians will return here on April 19 for meetings with officials and discussions on the plight of the Palestinian people. According to an UNRWA official here, the group represents the Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Dialogue.

7 sentenced for drug trafficking, plotting

AMMAN (Petra) — Three Jordanians have been sentenced to prison terms ranging from seven and a half years to 10 years for trafficking with drugs and four others received prison terms for plotting to carry out robberies, according to a statement by the military court Saturday. The statement said that Muhieddin Mohammad Al Mustapha and Baker Ali Hassan said each spend seven and a half years in prison with hard labour and pay JD 5,000 for importing and peddling drugs, while Saad Ibrahim Hassan will spend 10 years in prison with hard labour and will pay JD 5,000.

According to the statement the military court sentenced Ahmad Abdullah Rababah, Mu'tassim Mahmoud Nimer Al Haj, and Hilal Suleiman Mohammad Saleh to seven years in prison with hard labour each for conspiring to carry out robberies and use force. It said that Mohammad Darwish Mustafa was sentenced to two and a half years in prison for being an accomplice to robbery by concealing stolen items and withholding information about crimes. The military governor Saturday endorsed the sentences.

Chemical factory discussed

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Industry and Trade is going ahead with plans to set up an industrial chemical plant near the Dead Sea. A ministry tenders committee held a meeting Saturday under the chairmanship of Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa to review the bids offered for plant feasibility studies. The ministry said that the project is expected to be carried out over the coming 10 years.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan chaired a meeting in 1987 to discuss the initial steps to carry out the project near the southern tip of the Dead Sea. The project is to be set up by the Jordanian Industrial Consortium Engineering Company. The project will be one of the region's major schemes that could be complementary to petrochemical industries.

RSS celebrates 19th anniversary

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Saturday organised an exhibition displaying equipment and materials used in its operations. The exhibition, which was opened by RSS President Jawad Al Anani was set up to mark the society's 19th anniversary. The three-day exhibition is part of the RSS activities on the occasion.

A statement on the eve of the anniversary said that the RSS was established to help develop scientific and technological research and promote Jordanian industry and provide consultancy services to the private and public sectors in Jordan. It said that the RSS has 34 laboratories and 11 specialised units for testing materials, analysis and research studies. An RSS statement said that the facilities were aimed at conducting scientific and technological research and development work related to development process in Jordan with special attention to industrial research and services. The RSS, it said, cooperates with

a number of research institutions in Arab and foreign countries.

Committee discusses JRTVC modernisation

AMMAN (Petra) — A committee has been formed to look into means of modernising the administrative and financial structure of the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation (JRTVC). The committee which groups representatives of the Civil Service Commission and the JRTVC was formed at a meeting held at the Television Station in Amman under the chairmanship of Minister of Information, Hani Al Khasawneh. Among those attending the meeting were JRTVC Director Munir Durra, and the Civil Service Commission Director Ibrahim Izzeddin.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ An art exhibition displaying paintings by children at the Housing Bank Complex.

RAMADAN SOUQ

★ Ramadan open-air market, which includes foodstuffs, clothes, home appliances and children's toys at Mahatta, eastern Amman.

FOLKLORE

★ Performances by folk groups depicting traditional songs and dances at the Roman Amphitheatre downtown Amman after 8 p.m.

FILMS

★ A feature film entitled "Rupelitskin" at the American Centre - 4:00 p.m.

Touqan reviews social work in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Social Development Fawwaz Touqan Friday paid tribute to the work of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) and various charitable and voluntary associations in the Kingdom, and said that their work complements that of the ministry in all its aspects.



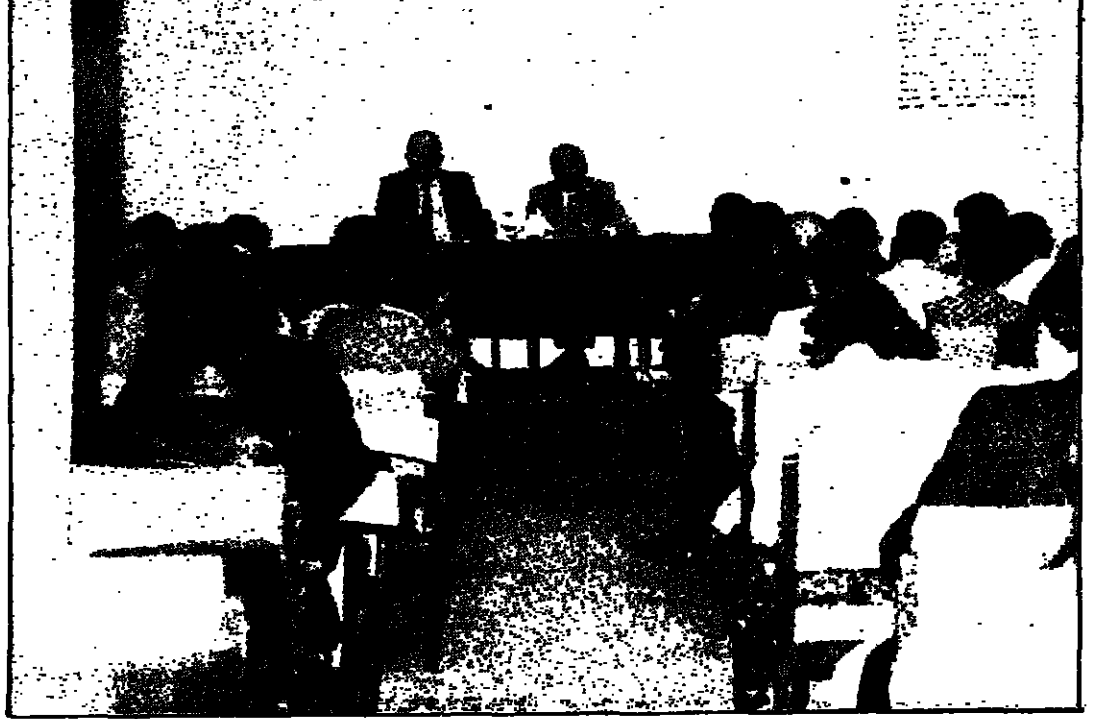
Fawwaz Touqan

The Ministry of Social Development can by no means do without associations specialising in charity and voluntary work; indeed the ministry will go on supporting and encouraging their operations, the minister said in an interview published by Al Dustour Arabic daily. What is needed now is further cooperation and coordination on the part of the various unions and associations so as to save efforts and expenses, but there is no need at all to merge them, the minister noted. The minister said that the Kingdom has four main organisations that carry out large scale charitable and voluntary work. These are the GUVS, the Queen Abla Hussein Welfare Fund, the Noor Al Hussein Foundation and the General Union of Jordanian Women.

But, he added, one should not minimise the work of such voluntary institutions like the Cerebral Palsy Foundation which provides valuable work for the society as a whole, the Nazek Al Hariri special education centre for the handicapped and Young Women

and looking after less fortunate persons, but it concerns itself also with providing care for the family and its members especially the old people for whom several homes have been set up, and orphans who can benefit from a number of institutions. But, the minister noted, that due to close family bondage and awareness as to the need to look after the old people and orphans, Jordan has so far faced no problem in this matter and in fact the homes for the aged and orphans are only half full.

The ministry maintains close cooperation with private organisations and institutions which care for the old, the orphaned and the handicapped and also with the National Aid Fund which provides aid to the needy people, Touqan noted. He said that beggars rarely exist in the country and they are the responsibility of the ministry and the private organisations. But he said that a recent survey revealed that Jordan has only 40 beggars in actual need, while the rest are non-Jordanian or youths pushed to the streets by their families to become beggars. The minister stressed that social development work is vast and takes various forms and operations, and therefore a serious effort at the national level is needed to promote it, exactly as had happened to the educational process.



Minister of Health Zubair Malhas (right) Saturday addresses a committee preparing for world non-smoking day celebrations.

Committee prepares for world no-smoking day

Malhas: Smokers increasing

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Health Minister Zubair Malhas Saturday emphasised the need for spreading awareness among the public against the dangers of smoking which he said is on the increase in the Arab countries and the Third World at large. As the number of smokers drops in the advanced nations at the rate of one per cent, the rate of smokers in developing nations increase, by two per cent, the minister said at a meeting by a national committee preparing for the world non smoking day on May 31, 1989. The preparatory committee reviewed the various measures and arrangements to be taken on that day in Jordan and its coordination with public and private organisations taking part in the day's activities. According to the committee members several seminars and lectures will be held, posters and pamphlets and booklets distributed and documentary films and slides shown to members of the public in various provinces as part of a general effort to combat smoking. The committee stressed the need to combat smoking not only on May 31 but throughout the year and every day. For this to be achieved, a great deal of coordination and cooperation is needed, the committee said. An earlier statement that followed last week's committee meeting said that the Ministry of Health which is spearheading the campaign was preparing a wide range programme on May 31 with the help of the information agencies and the press, which will include seminars and lectures. Earlier this month, a seminar on combating smoking in Jordan was held at the University of Jordan with the participation of a number of specialists and Ministry of Health officials. Working papers reviewed at the meeting dealt with diseases resulting from smoking. Last month the government issued orders banning smoking in public places and said that strict penalties would be imposed on violators. The measure was taken in implementation of resolutions taken by a number of seminars to deal with the problem of smoking, and as a way of enforcing a 1976 law to this effect.

Al Amin reviews progress in Amman development plan

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin has said that the five year development plan aims primarily at improving the living conditions of people in various governorates and striking a geographical balance in the distribution of development gains. Speaking about Amman Governorate's five year development plan, Al Amin said the governorate's plan focused on the industrial sector, as a pioneering economic sector, followed by the agricultural sector, and then the social services sectors. Al Amin pointed out that last year's investments, as planned for in the governorate's five year development plan totalled JD 136,087,000 out of JD 687.5 million for the five year plan (1985-1990). Actual expenditure of both the public and private sectors in 1988 amounted to JD 69,308,000, representing 62.5 per cent of planned investments for that year. Al Amin pointed out that investment in the environment sector amounted to JD 28,000, against a planned investment of JD 25,000 as contained in the plan. On the social and service sector, Amman governor said that an amount of JD 42 million was spent last year, while the planned investment according to the plan totalled JD 64 million. In the field of social development, an amount of JD 437,000 was spent while the plan called for JD 1.7 million. Among the most important projects carried out in this sector was the National Cancer Centre which cost some JD 30,000, and child care projects carried out at a cost of JD 15,000, in addition to other projects. In the health sector the planned expenditure totalled JD 2.8 million while the actual expenditure amounted to JD 3.3 million, thus exceeding the planned expenditure by 17.7 per cent. The major investment in this sector went to Al Bashir hospital, where JD 688,000 were spent on developing this hospital, building comprehensive health centres at a cost of JD 402,000 and renovating and modernising the Radiology Centre at Al Hussein Medical Centre at a cost of approximately JD 1 million. In the youth sector, Al Amin pointed out that out of a planned investment of JD 915,000 only JD 213,000 were spent last year. Youth projects included the maintenance of Amman International Stadium, Al Hassan International Squash Centre and the athlete and equestrian field. In the education, planned investment were JD 10.5 million, while the actual expenditure reached JD 11.3 million, thus exceeding the plans by 23.28 per cent. Educational projects included the construction of school buildings, in addition to the purchase of school facilities, extensions to existing schools. In the field of higher education an amount of JD 1.1 million out of planned expenditure of JD 3.8 million was spent last year. In the housing and government buildings sector, the plan allocated JD 21.8 million, while the actual expenditure amounted only to JD 8.8 million, 3.3 million of which were spent on the construction of the second urban development project. The expenditure also included the establishment of the National Meteorology Centre, which has been set up at a cost of JD 73,000 although this project was not included in the original plan. In the sector of Awqaf an amount of JD 2.3 million was actually spent, thus exceeding a planned expenditure of JD 1.5 million. The expenditure included JD 50,000 for constructing a commercial project in Saqi Al Seil area in downtown Amman and the construction of mosques. In the tourism and antiquities, the actual expenditure amounted to JD 710,000, while the planned expenditure was estimated at JD 682,000. Al Amin noted that a project for the construction of a hotel at a cost of JD 650,000 is currently under execution although it was not provided for in the plan. In trade and supply, the plan expected investments worth JD 2.6 million, while the actual expenditure amounted



Mohammad Ali Al Amin

only to JD 247,000, 8 per cent of the plan's investment. Al Amin also said that investment in municipal and rural affairs envisaged by the plan amounted to JD 15.3 million, while the actual amount spent on these totalled JD 13.8 million, which represents 90.14 per cent of the planned expenditure. However, he noted that Greater Amman Municipality plan included an investment of JD 12.8 million, which has been spent in full. The municipality's projects included setting up intersections at main roads at a cost of JD 2.2 million, public gardens at JD 269,000, construction of new streets in addition to the maintenance of existing roads at a cost of JD 5.1 million. The agricultural sector's expenditure totalled JD 2.5 million against a planned expenditure of JD 4.2 million. The agricultural projects carried out during the year included the development of highland, production of fruit trees, soil conservation, development of pasture land and fodders and production of veterinary vaccines. Under execution are the development of Zarqa River basin project and afforestation projects. Al Amin noted in this regard that the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) has granted loans worth JD 1,120,795 to farmers to help them improve their land and use ground and surface water in irrigation, setting up nurseries and improving animal wealth. In the industrial sector an amount of JD 2 million was spent, while the planned investment totalled JD 14 million. The industrial projects included completion of Amman International Fair, which has so far cost JD 212,000 and carrying out the second stage of Sahab Industrial Estate at a cost of JD 1.5 million. Al Amin highlighted the importance of developing infrastructure projects, saying that they form the basis for achieving socio-economic development. The infrastructure development plan aimed at investing approximately JD 29.5 million in the various projects, while the actual expenditure amounted to JD 22.6 million. In the field of transport, an amount of JD 1.6 million was spent last year on the construction of agricultural roads and improving existing ones. The energy sector's projects included a 132,000 kilovolt transmission line, a remote control centre and electrification projects in a number of villages in the outskirts of Amman. Al Amin noted that another project for filling gas cylinders has been carried out at a cost of approximately JD 1.9 million although it was not planned for in the 1985-1990 plan. Water and irrigation projects included completion of Deir Alla-Amman water project which was carried out at a total cost of JD 3 million, improving and replacing the water network in Amman at a cost of JD 691,000, water network in Madaba, which was implemented at a cost of JD 291,000 and Wadi Seer sewerage project which was carried out at a cost of JD 333,000. However, Al Amin noted that a JD 1.1 million sewerage improvement project was carried out although it was not provided for in the plan. In addition, Greater Amman Water Project, which was completed at a cost of JD 500,000 and sewerage projects.

Amman delights start

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage Sunday launches a cultural and folkloric programme in Amman with the help and participation of 11 folk troupes from the capital and other towns and cities in the Kingdom. Every Sunday and Wednesday each week from now until May 3, the folk troupes will present their performances depicting traditional songs and dances at the Roman Amphitheatre Downtown, Amman, according to Minister of Culture and National Heritage

Mohammad Hammouri. The programme is part of the ministry's round the year campaign to boost national culture and to involve as many troupes and artistic groups as possible in reflecting the country's traditions and heritage, the minister noted. The national heritage programme, he noted, comes in the wake of a 21 day cultural session held at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman during which plays were presented and Jordanian poetry recited. The ministry has chosen the

Roman Amphitheatre for the programme since it is located in the heart of the capital thus allowing the greatest number of citizens to attend and to enjoy the traditional art, the minister added. He said that attendance of the programme in which the Armed Forces brass band will take part will be free of charge for all members of the public. According to Hammouri, folk troupes from Ramtha, Fuhais, Salt and Amman will be involved in the performances which will be held in the evening.

Apply through the post office

Muta invites students

KARAK (Petra, J.T.) — Mu'ta University Saturday announced that it is now ready to register students in its military wing for the coming academic year, and said that applications can be forwarded through post offices around the country. According to the announcement, students applying for seats at the military wing should have passed the Tawjihi examination at 80 per cent if they wish to enrol for scientific courses and 60 per cent for the arts. The military wing gives military training to students as well as courses for B.A. degrees in Arabic, English, electrical engineering, physics, chemistry, mechanical engineering, computer, mathematics, administrative sciences and law.

All the students will have their fees paid for them by either the Armed Forces or the Public Security Department (PSD) both of which will absorb the graduates, according to the announcement. It said that the university will provide for the students accommodation, clothing and other necessities and when they graduate they will be employed by the Armed Forces or the PSD with the rank of lieutenant.

Mu'ta University which is situated near Karak in the southern regions of Jordan last year turned out the first batch of its students from the military wing who completed a four-year military and academic course. The university first started off with the military wing fully furnished and ready for occupancy and continued to give courses for the students in the civilian wing at locally rented buildings and the community college in Karak. According to University President Ali Mahafza work on the civilian wing which will include classrooms, laboratories, and other buildings and dormitories started in April 1988. The civilian wing, he said, has 700 students but it will absorb no less than 3,500 by 1991.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

جوردان تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times Advertising Department.

New opportunities for Bush in Poland, Hungary

By Barry Schweid
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President George Bush is weighing a visit to Poland and Hungary in July as opportunity beckons for the United States to promote political reform and capitalism in Eastern Europe.

A Bush administration source, speaking on condition of anonymity, has said the president was considering an Eastern European trip, and that Poland was a likely destination.

Other administration officials have said privately that Bush was considering a trip to both Poland and Hungary after the Western economic summit in Paris in July.

Poland recently lifted a seven-year ban on the Solidarity free trade union, and Hungary is permitting some political pluralism

and market economy experiments.

Secretary of State James A. Baker, in a speech last month in Vienna, called on the Soviet Union to scrap the Brezhnev doctrine. Named after Leonid Brezhnev, the former Soviet leader who formulated it, it claims the right to dispatch its troops to protect an endangered Communist government in any East European country.

The Soviets intervened in Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968 to keep Communist governments in control.

Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev may be unwilling to accept radical change in Eastern Europe.

Still, he seems determined to improve political and economic conditions at home, while encouraging some reforms among

the East European allies.

Baker, attending an East-West arms control meeting in Vienna, was impressed by the reports of reform he received from the foreign ministers of Poland and Hungary. The pace in Poland has picked up since, and Bush is preparing to announce a major programme of economic benefits.

Looking for opportunities to make a difference, the president and the secretary of state are inclined to look at Eastern Europe as an area ready for a dollop of American capitalism and Western-style democracy.

It is a policy that is bound to be well-received in the United States.

One of every eight Americans has roots in central and eastern Europe. In many cases, the ethnic and cultural affinity is strong after the passage of two or

three generations. Conservatives especially would like to "liberate" Eastern Europe from what they call the Soviet empire.

A Bush trip after his summit meeting in July with the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Italy, Japan and West Germany could enhance his political standing at home while emboldening the East Europeans.

President Richard M. Nixon visited Poland and Romania. President Jimmy Carter went to Poland. While Bush toured some East European nations as vice president, other U.S. presidents have not been to the six countries — Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Romania and Bulgaria — allied to the Soviet Union since World War II.

The trick in considering high-level political visits is to arrange them in a way that encourages

change instead of appearing to endorse the local government.

Mark Palmer, the U.S. ambassador to Hungary, suggests one way is to be sure to meet with church and opposition figures as well as the party leadership. That is what former Secretary of State George P. Shultz did in the Ukraine and in Soviet Georgia.

The peoples of eastern and central Europe want the kind of political institutions taken for granted in the West," Palmer wrote in a recent East-West forum publication. "Eastern Europeans want newspapers that print news, not propaganda; trade unions that represent workers, not a single political party; universities that are free to develop ideas and innovation; and governments elected by the people."

The American diplomat suggested a presidential visit to all six countries. He said the United States is probably more popular in eastern and central Europe than in any other part of the world.

But, Palmer wrote: "It is up to the peoples of the region to insist upon progress toward pluralism and openness."

The United States and other Western countries, the U.S. ambassador said, can play a broad and important secondary role with diplomatic exchanges and clever private initiatives.

Among Palmer's suggestions: — Credits from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and other institutions that are tied to specific reforms, including sharp cutbacks in the role of ministries, the Communist Party and the government in the East European economies.

U.S. should upgrade talks with PLO

By Charles H. Percy

The author was the former U.S. senator from Illinois (1967-1984), and chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee from 1980-84. He currently is chairman of the United States International Cultural and Trade Centre Presidential Commission. The article is reprinted from the Los Angeles Times.

IN THE AFTERMATH of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's visit to Washington, the Israeli government's self-defeating political stalemate on the Palestinian question has been reaffirmed.

Despite the intifada's clarion call for political change, Shamir's peace plan — local elections without international supervision — gives no real hope to the Palestinians since their acknowledged representative, the Palestine Liberation Organisation, cannot take part. Fearless of a deeply divided Labour Party in Israel and confident that the U.S. Congress would not force him to account for human rights violations, Shamir declared himself "immune" from Bush administration pressure even before arriving

in Washington. Clearly, Israel's lockout of the PLO in the conflict-resolution process calls for new American initiatives and leadership in reconciling the two parties.

As Shamir certainly knows, disputes between two groups are never resolved when one side insists on discussing the composition of the other's negotiating team. In this case, Shamir is misguided if he expects Israel to avoid dealing directly or indirectly with the PLO. By now, it is clear that only the PLO can claim to be the legitimate political representative of the Palestinian people. Just as important, only the PLO can deliver anything after negotiations that would bind Palestinians to future rules of

conduct, an essential precept for a lasting peace.

The Bush administration has largely accepted this reality. In recent congressional testimony, Secretary of State James A. Baker declared that Israel could not rule out negotiations with the PLO, thereby breaking an unspoken taboo against U.S. policymakers publicly discussing such an option. In addition, the administration has recently emphasised the necessity of concessions by both the PLO and Israel, steps that would bring confidence and logically culminate in discussions.

The problem is that each side's ability to make concessions is in reverse proportion to their willingness to do so. As the occupying power on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israel has available numerous concessions but has heretofore made only cosmetic gestures. At all costs, Shamir wants to stonewall any Israeli actions that might lead to either direct contact with the PLO or spark Palestinian hope for an

independent state. The PLO, starting from a basic position of weakness, has already recognised Israel's right to exist and renounced terrorism. It has little left to concede other than the intifada itself, which it would gladly do if statehood could be guaranteed at the end of the peace process.

There are two compelling reasons for the United States and Israel to be more forthcoming and realistic vis-a-vis the PLO. First, the current, relatively moderate PLO leadership continues to be threatened by secular and radical religious elements. It must achieve tangible results if it is to maintain credibility with the Palestinian people. Second, the incipient proliferation of medium-range conventional missiles in the Middle East, not to mention biological and nuclear weapons capabilities, raise the specter of what British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has called "the horrors of further conflict."

Most experts now see a permanent shift occurring in the Arab-Israeli military equation. Within the three-to-five-year time frame most often mentioned as a transitional period to some form of Palestinian self-rule, at least five Arab countries will likely possess arms capable of inflicting massive damage on Israel. Libya may have significantly shortened this period with its recent purchase of advanced jet bombers from the Soviet Union. A genuine peace process between Israel and its Arab neighbours, especially the Palestinians, must begin very soon.

No political group in Israel today appears strong enough to move from factionalism to unity and achieve peace. Creative U.S. diplomacy is essential to a process of concessions and counter-concessions that must break the current Israeli-PLO deadlock. To jump-start this process, the most promising immediate U.S. option is to rapidly normalise com-

munications between Washington and the PLO.

At present, the very experienced U.S. ambassador, Robert H. Pelletreau Jr., is the only approved channel of communication with the PLO. This arrangement may prove too inflexible, considering the difficult road ahead for U.S. diplomacy. A concerted move by the United States, to upgrade talks with the PLO could give Arafat the confidence to consider further, difficult concessions — including those involving the intifada itself — and hopefully provide the impetus for a more constructive Israeli position.

This evolution in the American position may seem premature to some, but the U.S. dialogue with the PLO is now our most powerful vehicle for peace. It may well be that only through an intensified U.S.-PLO dialogue will Israel and its leaders finally realise that Israeli peace and security, which the U.S. considers essential, hinge on their own direct dialogue with the PLO.

Vote for peace

IT IS clear by now, especially in the wake of Soviet military withdrawal from Afghanistan, that there is a military stalemate in that country. Many weeks have passed since the departure of the last Soviet soldier from Afghanistan without either of the principal parties succeeding in achieving a complete military upper hand. Therefore there seems to be no military solution to the Afghan conflict; the only obvious result of the protracted fighting in that country being the continuous suffering of the Afghan people themselves with no end in sight. Now, therefore, is the time to heed the spirit of last year's Geneva accord between Pakistan and Afghanistan which both the Soviet Union and the U.S. had underwritten its terms.

The propitiousness of this time to move forward in implementing the letter and spirit of that accord has been accentuated lately by Pakistan agreeing to place international monitoring machinery on its border with Afghanistan, thus registering its complete willingness to fully observe, and in good faith, the Geneva accord. With Pakistan fulfilling its side of the bargain, and the Afghan people unable to settle their differences by bullets, it is incumbent on both the Soviet Union and the U.S. to move the crisis from one that is solvable by military might to one that can be resolved by ballot. Accordingly, all parties concerned should push for and pursue the ballot option to bring the Afghan conflict to resolution by peaceful means.

It must be recalled that the principal feature of the Geneva accord on Afghanistan called for the exercise of the right of self determination by the Afghan people. With outside interferences in the affairs of Afghanistan brought down to the minimal possible level, time is ripe to grant the Afghan people the right to decide their fate and future by the only sensible way left and that is by voting under international supervision.

The alternative to voting is obviously continuous killing and destruction in Afghanistan whose people had more than their share of killing and suffering. The international community, especially the two superpowers which last year affixed their seal of approval to the Geneva accord, are duty bound to "interfere" in the affairs of Afghanistan in the only legitimate way left, namely, by promoting the idea of free and democratic voting by the Afghan people and to assure the full respect and implementation of the results of this voting process.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Saturday discussed in an editorial Israel's most recent crime in the occupied West Bank town of Nahalin. The paper said that the massacre committed by Israeli troops resulted in the death of seven innocent people and the injury of tens of others. The ugly crime prompted the Red Cross in Geneva to lodge a strong protest with the Israeli government, and moved many countries to issue condemnations of the atrocities, said the paper. This strong repercussion indicates that the world community is appalled at the Israeli criminal actions and emphasises the need for a speedy action to be taken to end Israel's occupation and its repressive measures against the Palestinian people. The crime committed in the town of Nahalin is another evidence to the world that Israel's continued occupation of Arab land represents a flagrant violation of human rights and a direct threat to the Palestinian people and the peace and stability in the Middle East, the paper said. A speedy withdrawal of Israeli forces from Palestinian land, the paper said, is a must and should be on the top of all priorities for the United Nations.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily praises the first step by the Ministry of Agriculture towards enabling Jordan to cover its own needs of food supplies and help ensure food security. Salah Abdul Samad says that an idea formed by the ministry in cooperation with the ministries of Supply and Planning and Water and Irrigation towards this end paves the way for boosting meat production which to date forms only 18 per cent of the total needs for consumption. The writer draws the attention to the fact that the south and southeastern regions of the country remain the best site for fattening sheep and increasing the country's livestock wealth, and he notes that livestock is bound to provide the country with badly needed milk and provide employment to many people in those regions. But, the writer notes, that ideas and words can by no means help the country achieve its aspirations, and only through real efforts and practical steps can Jordan produce its needs of meat and milk and save vast amounts of badly needed foreign currency.

Al Dastour daily commented Saturday on the government's statement based on a report by the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) team which had been visiting Jordan and discussing means of stimulating the national economy. The paper said that the government's announcement of an economic programme is bound to re-establish optimism in the hearts of the citizens and promote investments. The IMF report, the paper noted followed a long and detailed study of the financial, monetary and economic situation in Jordan and the economic programme it proposed came as an endorsement of the government's measures initiated in the past year.

Yugoslavia and Kosovo autonomy

By Goran Ranitovic

THE amendments to the constitution of Serbia, promulgated at the end of March, restored the republic's powers in the fields of internal affairs and security, defence, international cooperation and the judiciary in its provinces of Vojvodina and Kosovo.

Under the 1974 constitution, Kosovo and Vojvodina, although formally parts of Serbia, obtained rights which gave them a greater degree of statehood than the republic as a whole. Thus, Albanian Yugoslavs, the predominant population in Kosovo, became the sole national minority in the world to have an independent police force and judiciary, parliament, as well as in other federal political and state bodies, the vote of the provinces was equal to the vote of the six constituent republics of Yugoslavia. In effect, this meant that they had the right of veto over all proposed decisions, laws and various other acts.

The counterrevolution in Kosovo in 1981, when separatist forces organised demonstrations with the aim of gaining the status of a republic for Kosovo and thereby the right to secession and the creation of a Greater Albania, pointed up in the most drastic way the abnormal constitutional status of the provinces.

It became evident that the separatist forces were able to deeply infiltrate Kosovo's political and state bodies, the police force, the judiciary and the education system. Separatist indoctrination flowed unhindered from Tirana to Kosovo through the province's international cooperation with Albania. At Pristina, University professors from Albanian taught ethnic Albanian students Enver Hoxha's brand of Marxism-Leninism.

For years, as former Prime Minister Branko Mikulic admitted recently to foreign correspondents, Yugoslavia underestimated the dangers of a separatist movement.

Ethnic Albanian nationalists came very close to realising their objective of creating an ethnically pure Kosovo. Today, only 10 per cent of the province's population of 1.9 million are Slavs, compared to 50 per cent just before World War II and 45 per cent after the war.

Kosovo was the heartland of the medieval Serbian state but the demographic composition of the region was changed by the Ottoman rule. Prospects are that the adoption of the constitutional amendments in Serbia will stabilise the situation in Kosovo, particularly since the claims of the nationalists and the Tirana government that Albanian Yugoslavs are being deprived of their autonomy and cultural heritage and the use of their language are completely groundless.

Albanian children in Kosovo attend schools in which instruction is given in their native language. The province has an exceptionally high number of university students, close to 40,000. In 1981, this figure was 50,000, a world when compared to the whole population. Now, however, the "autonomy" and megalomaniac ambitions of Kosovo leaders in exacting its toll. Kosovo has over 130,000 jobless and, while Yugoslavia provides financial assistance to the tune of one million 270 thousand dollars a day for development and other purposes, the province remains the least developed part of Yugoslavia.

The status of Albanian Yugoslavs, the most numerous national minority in the country, is also illustrated by the fact that they also hold the most responsible federal positions in Yugoslavia. In the past four years alone, Albanians presided over the federal assembly, the League of Communists and the state presidency.

Like the other Yugoslav nations and nationalities, Albanians too have the right to use their native language in all state and political bodies. Paradoxically enough, in Kosovo itself Serbo-Croat was suppressed to such an

extent that non-Albanians could not obtain employment if they did not speak Albanian. This meant that non-Albanians were required to know two languages, and Albanians only one.

Pristina radio and the two television channels broadcast programmes in Albanian over the whole day. The Skopje, Belgrade and Titograd radio and television networks, too, have Albanian-language programmes.

Numerous Albanian-language newspapers and periodicals are published in Pristina, including the daily Rilindja, the Fjala and Perparimi journals, the Shkëndija fortnightly, the Zeri i Rinas youth weekly and the Pionier children's newspaper. Plaka e Velazemit which comes out every other day, the children's weeklies Fatoni and Gezimi, and the monthly science and culture journal Jehona.

Out of Macedonia's 30 communes, 14 have Albanian-language schools. Albanian studies departments exist at both Belgrade and Skopje Universities. The National Theatre in Pristina has an Albanian drama company and, at Skopje's Theatre of Nations, the Albanian drama group has thus far presented 176 premieres, of which 89 by Albanian playwrights.

Plebiscite to fix areas included in Philippine autonomy plan

By Jeremy Clift
Reuters

MANILA — The Philippine congress has cleared the way for limited autonomy in the Muslim south of the country where a separatist war killed tens of thousands in the 1970s.

The house of representatives ended months of controversy by approving last week autonomy plans for two separate regions of the Philippines — Muslim areas of Mindanao island and the northern tribal lands of the Cordillera.

Areas to be included in the autonomy scheme will be decided by a plebiscite.

The limited autonomy scheme is designed to undercut demands by Muslim separatist groups which have been pressing since 1972 for Islamic self-rule in the south of the otherwise predominantly Roman Catholic nation.

The autonomy bills, approved by an overwhelming majority of the house, still have to be harmonised with separate versions in the senate before they are presented to President Corazon Aquino for approval.

Legislators said the congress decision got over the main hurdle.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Objections came from those who feared the scheme would split up the west Pacific country of 60 million people.

"Self-rule at a time when the government is still unstable might lead to destabilisation and dismemberment of the republic," warned congressman Eduardo Josa, one of the few who voted against the autonomy acts.

But congressman Salvador Escudero said it could strengthen the country. "These measures should serve as the first step towards the federalisation of the country. It is also in line with the constitutional mandate to decentralise the government," he stated.

More than 50,000 people were killed in the 1970s in fighting between government troops and Muslim separatists in Mindanao, the country's second largest island and traditional homeland of the Muslim minority of around eight million.

An informal ceasefire has been in effect since 1986. But the military went on alert across Mindanao this month after monitoring rebel reports that Misuari was returning from Saudi Arabia to start a new offensive.

Aquino and her predecessor, Ferdinand Marcos, both pledged to end unrest in the south by granting semi-autonomy to some provinces but talks bogged down.

They were complicated because Christian migration from the north since World War II has left only five southern provinces with a Muslim majority.

Under the congress-approved bills limited autonomy will be granted to 13 provinces and nine cities in the south.

The scheme for the mountain region of the Cordillera provides autonomy for an area spanning five northern provinces and the city of Baguio.

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مكتبة لادول

Life as usual in Lebanon's shelters

By Michael Kuli
Reuters

BEIRUT — "Do you, Jeanette, take George as your beloved husband?" asked Father Butros Khouri.

"Sorry... I can't hear you," shouted Jeanette, dressed in a white wedding gown, as the roar of exploding shells resounded through the east Beirut basement used as a family bomb shelter.

"I repeat: do you... I pronounce you husband and wife... you may kiss the bride," said Father Khouri, as he hastily brought the service to an end.

A month-long bombardment in and around Beirut has forced more than a million civilians to adapt to life in damp and gloomy shelters in base-

ments and underground car parks.

After 14 years of civil war, the Lebanese are determined to prove one thing above all: life goes on.

"As I kissed Jeanette, a Stalin organ (a multi-barrelled rocket launcher) roared in the distance instead of Mendelssohn's wedding march," said 29-year-old George Magdasi, who works as a mechanic in peacetime.

"None of us is certain to survive this bloody war. We have been in love with each other since we were 14 and finally decided it is better to die married rather than apart."

The couple had repeatedly postponed their church wedding ceremony because of the fighting in the capital.

"We spent the first three

nights of our honeymoon in a corner in the shelter rather than a quiet hotel," said George.

Fighting which erupted March 14, when army chief Michel Aoun sought to extend his power beyond the Christian enclave, has killed at least 182 people and wounded 650.

The shelter where the Magdasi wedding took place was decorated with house plants and white ribbons collected from neighbours, who made up the congregation along with passing strangers.

Afterwards, sweets and plastic cups of lemonade were served instead of cake and champagne.

Bishop George Saliba of the Syrian Orthodox Church in Lebanon told Reuters that none of the masses at his

church in the Fanar neighbourhood of east Beirut had been cancelled.

Baptisms, marriages, engagements take place along with burials," he said. "Life will go on despite everything."

But a wedding convoy caught out by shelling must either risk speeding to the church or stop to let people take cover.

Birthdays, wedding anniversaries and other family occasions are also being celebrated in shelters, which are increasingly furnished with televisions and chairs taken from homes. Many even have telephones.

"What would you do if your wife was about to give birth to your first baby while shells are falling in their hundreds around the shelter you're hid-

ing in?" asked Joseph Sourigian.

"It was impossible to take my wife to hospital. I called the doctor but he was probably also under cover. I tried another one but he was too scared to come. I had to do it myself."

Helped by a group of mothers and instructions given over the shelter telephone from another doctor, the baby was born safely.

"It was an unforgettable experience. I was sweating a lot and was scared to death but it was a happy ending... we got a healthy baby girl and saved at least a thousand dollars in medical fees," he said.

Joseph and Gina named their baby Amal (hope) — in fervent hopes of a brighter and more peaceful future for her.



Princess Anne smiles her way through divorce speculation

Princess Anne's marriage — on the rocks or just rippled?

By Graham Heathcote
The Associated Press

LONDON — Letters to Princess Anne from a handsome aide have raised speculation of a royal divorce — a subject which has wrought constitutional upheavals and brought heartbreak to Queen Elizabeth II's family.

Whether Anne's 15-year marriage to Captain Mark Phillips is really on the rocks or is simply one of those long-distance unions not unusual in the British upper classes remains open to question.

Thirty-eight-year-old Anne, the queen's only daughter, and Phillips, 40, a commodore and former army captain who runs equestrian centres, lead virtually separate lives.

The couple, who have two children, Peter, 11, and Zara, 7, were apart for more than half the time last year.

News of the mysterious collection of letters to Anne from Royal Navy Commander Timothy Laurence, a 34-year-old bachelor and equerry at Buckingham Palace, gave new life to rumours which began in 1981 that her marriage is in trouble.

The four stolen letters were delivered last week to a mass-circulation newspaper, The Sun, which did not publish them. Police are now investigating the theft.

With bold headlines, the tabloid press said Anne and Laurence are in love.

As usual, the principal characters said little or nothing.

Anne, dogged by an army of photographers, carried on with a punishing schedule of routine royal engagements. Phillips went off to Spain to see about setting

up a riding centre there and Laurence dropped out of sight.

While remaining on duty as equerry at Windsor Castle, he has not appeared in public with the queen since he was identified as the letter-writer.

Anne is only seventh in line to the throne — behind her brothers Charles, Andrew and Edward, two young nephews and a baby niece — and for her a divorce would hardly mean a constitutional crisis.

It was not always so. Divorce has hung over the royal family since the six-times married Henry VIII broke with the Roman Catholic Church in 1534 because the Vatican would not annul his marriage with Catherine of Aragon.

Each succeeding monarch is titular head of the Church of England, which frowns on divorce.

In 1936, Anne's great-uncle, Edward VIII, gave up the throne to marry a twice-divorced American, Wallis Simpson. In a celebrated broadcast Dec. 11 that year, he told the nation he could not go on as king without the support "of the woman I love."

As the duke and duchess of Windsor, the couple lived in exile, mainly in Paris. He died in 1972 and she died in 1986.

In 1955, in the next generation, the queen's only sister, Princess Margaret, gave up the man she loved, Royal Air Force Group Captain Peter Townsend, because he was divorced.

The young princess, then aged 25, told the nation that "mindful of the church's teaching that Christian marriage is indissoluble, conscious of my duty to the Commonwealth, I have resolved

to put these considerations before any others."

Townsend, a dashing battle of Britain pilot and former aide to Margaret's father, George VI, moved to Belgium where he married again happily.

Margaret has never seemed to find happiness.

In 1960, she married Tony Armstrong-Jones, a talented photographer and designer, who was created Earl of Snowdon.

The Snowdons, who have two children, were divorced in 1978. He has remarried but she has not.

Despite changed attitudes in a country where one in three marriages now ends in divorce, some royal commentators speculate that Anne will choose to stay married to Phillips while leading a separate life.

Richard Kay, royal correspondent for London's Daily Mail, argued that another royal divorce would "erode further the concept that the royal family are somehow different from the rest of us."

In the 1970s, Princess Margaret had a widely known relationship with a London socialite 17 years her junior, Roddy Llewellyn. Newspapers regularly photographed them heading off on Caribbean vacations.

But generally for the modern royals, discretion is the key.

In contrast, Queen Victoria's heir, Edward VII, who came to the throne in 1901, was noted most for his famous mistresses: actress Lillie Langtry; social siren Daisy Brooke who became countess of Warwick and Scottish baroness's daughter Alice Keppel.

He kept up with Mrs. Keppel until he died in 1910.

Oh, that adorable tramp

By Matthew Heller
Reuters

LOS ANGELES — The little man with the toothbrush moustache, bowler hat, baggy trousers and cane is back in the big time.

Charlie Chaplin, who died in 1977 and whose most famous movie creation was the down-trodden tramp, is being feted all over the world in honour of the 100th anniversary of his birth Sunday.

The abiding legacy of one of the pioneers of the motion picture industry will be displayed at events as diverse as a gala birthday party in Hollywood, a musical tribute in Japan and the dedication of a Chaplin Square in Switzerland.

"He influenced a whole medium," said Jerry Epstein, a long-time associate of the filmmaker whose book "Remembering Charlie" will be published Sunday. "He gave comedy character, construction and originality."

Chaplin's film career began with the silent movie "Making A Living" in 1914 in which he played a conman posing as an aristocrat. Feeling uncomfortable with the part, he raided the studio wardrobe department and emerged in the livery of the tramp.

That character formed the basis for his appeal, providing inspiration for all sorts of things



Chaplin the tramp in 1925

including computer commercials on television.

"The tramp figure, especially in Third World countries, symbolises hope and optimism," Epstein said in an interview. "It appeals to the downtrodden of

the world... no one has touched so many people as the fictional character he created."

But Chaplin's work extended far beyond the tramp and silent movies. As the director and star of such films as "Modern Times", "Limelight", "The Great Dictator" and "City Lights", he used satire to expose the evils of industrialisation and fascism.

"He grew as an artist and a person. During the depression, he developed a social conscience, he wanted to do more with his pictures," Epstein said.

"He has turned film clowning into social satire and criticism without losing his astonishing ability to make us laugh," the author J.B. Priestley wrote in a review of Chaplin's film "A King In New York".

Filmgoers around the world will have a chance to see Chaplin's art for themselves in a series of centennial retrospectives and screenings. The following is a partial list:

— New York's Museum of Modern Art has been screening his feature films as well as exhibiting posters and stills, while the National Film Theatre in London and Munich's Stadtmuseum are presenting seasons of his works.

— On Sunday, "City Lights" will receive a gala screening attended by Britain's Princess Diana at the Dominion Theatre in London, where it was premiered in 1931. The film will be accompanied by the first concert performance of the music Chaplin composed for it.

Among the more unusual tributes is a three-day conference for delegates from nine countries at the Sorbonne in Paris where the French minister of culture will present a decoration to the filmmaker's daughter, the actress Geraldine Chaplin.

Further into the future, there may be a film biography of Chaplin's life. Sir Richard Attenborough, the Oscar-winning director of "Gandhi", has begun casting



A scene from Chaplin's movie the 'Great Dictator'

in London. Hollywood, where Chaplin began his career and co-founded the United Artists Studio, will provide the stage for perhaps the most lavish celebration of all.

"How To Make Movies", a 1918 documentary that was not released during Chaplin's lifetime but has been restored by film

historians Kevin Brownlow and David Gill, will be screened Sunday at the same studios, now occupied by a record company, where it was shot.

After the screening, a reception attended by several Chaplin associates and his son Sydney will feature a giant cake adorned with 100 candles.

Inventions exhibit has everything from the practical to the bizarre

By Claude Regis
Reuters

GENEVA — "Alvaro Zucconi from Italy is trying to prove to the world it is less tiring to pedal backwards on a bicycle."

"We have been doing it wrong for a century," he tells bemused and sceptical visitors at Geneva's annual inventions exhibition, one of the world's biggest.

Australian Ted du Moulin turns garden rubbish into mulch or compost with a simple unit attached to an ordinary lawnmower, while Shin Sok-Kyun of South Korea proudly shows what he claims is the world's first solar-powered, tapeless tape recorder.

Shin says patents for his revolutionary recorder are pending in many countries and he refuses to reveal how his invention works.

From Switzerland comes a cigarette lighter with a stiff flame which can be directed upwards, downwards or sideways and will resist hurricane force winds.

With this you will never burn your fingers while lighting up your barbecue fire, says the attendant behind the stand where the lighter attracts large crowds.

Or how about the button you attach to your shirt in seconds, without needle, thread or sewing

equipment. "Just screw it and forget the stress," as its Swedish inventor Gudmar Olofson puts it. He was awarded the exhibition's top prize for his spearbutt button.

For cat lovers, there is the litter box which cleans itself, with the waste collected into a removable cartridge which can be emptied once a week.

"There are 55 million cats in the United States, so the market exists and it is a \$500 million one," says its hopeful inventor Jean-Louis Laroche of France.

From large industrial concerns to the lone inventor working out of his tool shed they all flock to this annual jamboree in the hope of winning contracts for new technological processes or for that breakthrough which will revolutionise the way we live.

A survey of last year's exhibition shows that licences were negotiated for the sale, manufacture, distribution or marketing of more than 40 per cent of the novelties on display.

This year some 500 exhibitors from 25 nations are showing products ranging from air-conditioned shoes to guard against smelly feet to hydraulic buffers protecting buildings against earthquakes.

There is a lot of research going

on throughout the world on how best to protect buildings against devastating earthquakes, but they all rely on conventional methods, says Holland's Hans Lenten who is convinced he holds the key to the problem.

"My buffers are filled with liquid so that buildings will sway but will not collapse," he added, demonstrating his invention with a small scale model.

"One simply does not know which inventions will make it. Who would have thought that the safety pin had any future 50 years ago," one exhibitor remarked.

The screw button is already patented in many countries and the straight flame lighter will be on sale from next week in Swiss shops.

The pedal boat which folds into a small package and can be carried in a car trunk appears to have commercial potential but what about the baby bottle fitted with two soft rubber breasts?

"The breasts are so soft that babies feel as if they are being fed by their mothers," its South Korean creator, In-Ho Park, says.

For affluent parents, a West German firm has produced an alarm system which is triggered by babies or small children falling into swimming pools.



The new Mercedes-Benz supercar, a six- or eight-cylinder sports model, is now available (Photo: DaD/Mercedes-Benz)

Something new, sleek in the auto scene

GENEVA/Stuttgart (DaD) — The world premiere of a new deluxe sports car from Daimler-Benz at this year's Geneva motor show was viewed with nostalgia by connoisseurs. The new SL roadster from Stuttgart, selling in the Federal Republic of Germany for between DM90,000 and DM125,000, depending on the engine chosen, is reminiscent of the legendary Mercedes 300 SL, Europe's "dream car" of the 1950s. The new SL, says Daimler-Benz development director Wolfgang Peter, outlines the ambitious ideas of his design team, is intended to combine the fascination of the erstwhile 300 SL in its styling while guaranteeing a maximum of sporting performance, based on the latest in automotive technology, and optimum comfort and safety.

The Stuttgart carmakers have set about this task with a will, reconciling comfort and sporting performance in a brilliant manner by means of an adaptive absorber system consisting of four different shock absorber stages that automatically

adjust to driving and road conditions. "Automatic safety" is ensured in the latest Mercedes convertible by an entirely new design of over-roll bar. It is normally recessed horizontally in front of the hood cover, but in critical situations such as an angle of more than 25 degrees it is automatically brought into position in 0.3 seconds. Fresh air fans can feel safe in the new Mercedes SL with its newly designed seats with built-in belts and airbags to protect both driver and co-driver in the event of a crash. The hood is, naturally, raised automatically too, opening and closing within 30 seconds.

The new SL is available with six- and eight-cylinder engines. Its most powerful version, the 500 SL, accelerates to 100 kilometres per hour from a standing start in 6.2 seconds. Roughly 20,000 of the new SLs a year are to run of assembly lines in the Federal Republic of Germany.

<p>Cinema Tel: 677420</p> <p>CONCORD</p> <p>BODY ROCK Starring Lorenzo Lamas</p> <p>Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Cinema Tel: 675371</p> <p>NUJUM</p> <p>STRIKER</p> <p>Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Cinema Tel: 677420</p> <p>PLAZA</p> <p>OUTRAGEOUS</p> <p>Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.</p>
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Director General
Dr. Hisham Zagha

Bush and congressional leaders reach budget accord

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush and congressional leaders have produced a deficit-slashing budget plan with no new taxes, but a key Democratic leader warned that "hard choices lie ahead" in deciding where to cut.

Democrats said the budget compromise unveiled Friday night, which would reduce the 1990 federal deficit to under \$100 billion while cutting defence spending, could open the way to tax increases to meet the next year's budget.

Bush called it the "first manageable step" in a journey to cut deficits that have been the bane of an otherwise good U.S. economy for the past six years.

The plan would enable Bush to say he is holding to his "no new taxes" campaign pledge, while trimming the budget deficit to \$99.4 billion, just within the \$100 billion target set by the nation's budget-balancing law.

Under the agreement, Bush would be forced to accept lower defence spending and more spending for domestic program-

mes than he initially sought. In exchange, congressional leaders pledged to abide by Bush's anti-tax stance—at least for one year.

Critics warned that it still fell short of spelling out exactly which programmes would be cut to save money.

"No one should be deluded into thinking that this is the end of a process," said Senate Democratic leader George Mitchell. "It is the beginning of a process. Very hard choices lie ahead."

Another leading Democrat, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Lloyd Bentsen, boycotted the White House announcement entirely, although he joined other congressional leaders in attending a preceding session with Bush to go over the compromise.

"He declined to go out into the rose garden and have his picture taken because he doesn't like the agreement," said Jack Devore, spokesman for last year's Democratic vice presidential candidate. Bentsen told Bush "that he's concerned that it depends on wildly optimistic economic assumptions and there remains a great gulf between the Congress and the administration on how you raise the \$5.3 billion in new taxes Bush is calling for," the spokesman said.

Still, Bush, his top lieutenants and most congressional leaders were upbeat.

"It is a major step toward a balanced budget," said House Republican leader Newt Gingrich.

Major elements of the agreement include:

— Total deficit reductions of about \$28 billion for the fiscal year that begins next Oct. 1. The projected 1990 deficit of \$99.4 billion compares to a 1989 deficit estimated by the administration at \$163.3 billion.

— Defence outlays of \$299.2 billion, down from \$300.6 billion proposed by Bush in his Feb. 9 budget message to Congress.

— A level of discretionary domestic spending of \$181.3 billion, up from the \$175.9 billion proposed by Bush, and spending in social programmes in which benefits to individuals are mandated by law of \$556.4 billion, up from Bush's proposal for \$531.4 billion.

— A decision to adhere, without specifying in what manner, to Bush's call for \$5.3 billion in new tax revenue without enacting what the president considers a tax increase.

In Bush's budget, much of the money would come from additional revenues he expects to be gained from business growth spurred by a reduction in the tax on capital gains, those earnings from sales of capital assets such as stocks.

On other economic fronts, inflation at the wholesale level moderated last month and the U.S. economy showed more signs of slowing, while the trade deficit

widened in February as imports rebounded.

The news, which emerged in a barrage of five government reports, was a green light for Wall Street, sending stocks and bonds sharply higher.

Traders have been edgy over rising inflation and interest rates and analysts said the figures would convince the Federal Reserve Board to hold off on further interest rate hikes.

"The numbers are all saying pretty much the same thing: The economy is slowing," said economist Cynthia Latta of the Boston Co., an investment management firm.

The reports showed wholesale inflation moderated last month, while industrial output was flat and factory operating rates declined for the second month in a row. At the same time, the closely watched trade deficit widened.

The producer price index, a measure of inflation at the wholesale level, rose only 0.4 per cent following two months of sharp 1.0 per cent jumps, the Labour Department said.

But so far this year the index

has soared at a seasonally adjusted 10.2 per cent annual rate, the largest quarterly gain in eight years. The index rose 4.0 per cent in 1988.

Despite last month's moderation, economists said inflation remains above last year's level and is not likely to abate until the economy has had several months of sluggish growth.

"The slower economy ought to mean less inflation somewhere down the road, but I don't think the March producer price index provided that link," said economist Allen Sinai of the Boston Co., an investment management firm.

Consumer price hikes have also accelerated in the first two months of the year to a 6.1 per cent annual rate from 4.4 per cent in each of the two previous years.

The Federal Reserve (Fed) has been fighting inflation by raising interest rates over the past year to cool the economy, which has been expanding for more than six years.

Economists said the latest reports make it unlikely that the Fed will raise interest rates soon. Some even said the reports may convince the central bank to ease up on credit to avoid the risk of a recession.

"I wouldn't say we are in a recession yet but certainly we are in a stage of declining economic growth," said Lawrence Chimerine, chairman of the Wafa Group.

In a report that backed up earlier signs that the economy is losing momentum, the Fed said industrial output was unchanged in March for the second month in a row.

"To some extent higher interest rates are having their desired effect," said Stacy Kottman of the Georgia State-University Economic Forecasting Centre.

Another sign of a slowdown emerged in a Commerce Department report showing a 0.5 per cent February rise in business inventories, while sales fell 0.9 per cent.

Although inventories are regarded as being manageable, a rise in unsold goods usually precedes an economic slowdown.

Trade deficit widens

The Commerce Department also said the merchandise trade deficit widened to \$10.50 billion in February from a revised \$8.68 billion in January.

Although exports rose 0.6 per cent to \$28.91 billion, imports

jumped 5.3 per cent to \$39.40 billion.

Business equipment accounted for half of the \$2 billion increase in imports, suggesting that investment remains strong and that companies are optimistic about the future.

But Americans remained hungry for foreign cars and expensive gadgets. Imports of cars and vehicle parts rose \$800 million while the bill for consumer goods went up \$700 million.

The wider trade gap was in line with expectations.

Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher was optimistic.

"Despite the erratic movement of the foreign trade balance over the past several months, I continue to be encouraged that the annual deficit will show further improvement in 1989," he said in a statement.

The deficit with Japan, Washington's thorniest trade problem, soared to \$4.66 billion in February from \$3.53 billion in January.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, April 15, 1989 Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	536.0	542.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	406.7	411.2
Pound Sterling	916.2	925.3	Dutch guilder	255.8	257.8
Deutschmark	288.2	291.5	Swedish crown	84.7	85.4
Swiss franc	326.3	329.7	Italian lira (for 100)	39.3	39.6
French franc	85.2	85.9	Belgian franc (for 10)	137.1	138.2

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Turkish labour protests continue

ANKARA (R) — More than 17,000 workers staged protest marches in Turkey Friday and go-slows hit key industries with the worst labour unrest since 1980, Anatolian News Agency said. The first major pay talks between government and unions representing 600,000 state-sector workers adjourned after five hours until Wednesday, with little progress reported. "The difference will not be bridged with an increase of 100-120 per cent," said Sevtik Yilmaz, leader of Turk-Is, the largest labour union federation. Prime Minister Turgut Ozal offered the rise Thursday. Inflation that hit 75 per cent in 1988 has eroded workers' pay packets, Turk-Is says. The Petrol-Is union said in a statement that refineries were working at a tenth of capacity. It said two Soviet tankers had delivered fuel oil to make up losses but petrol shortages would start in days. Anatolian said the construction, shipbuilding and electricity industries were also hit by go-slows. In Ankara, over 1,000 road workers walked one kilometre barefoot to work, while electricity workers refused to shave. Such unorthodox protests are used to avoid restrictions on strikes in key areas of the economy.

U.S. wants Gorbachev to succeed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State James Baker Friday praised the economic reform programme in the Soviet Union, but said Mikhail Gorbachev could be in trouble unless "there are consumer goods on the table and in the markets." Baker told newspaper editors that the risk to the Soviet leader could come from opponents of change, entrenched elements of the bureaucracy and from "sources of nationalistic discontent." He said Gorbachev's economic programme, known in Russian as perestroika, is in the best interest of the United States and the world because it would lead to a more secure and stable Soviet Union. "We very much want perestroika to succeed," Baker said in response to a question after a speech. "We very much want the general secretary to succeed." Baker said "there is some risk" to the Soviet leadership. "If they are unable to get the economic part of this going and going well so there are consumer goods on the table and in the markets, that's going to give rise to some feelings on the part of some that this idea of perestroika doesn't mean much to the common man in the Soviet Union," he said. Baker added: "I see a chance of it, and I think it would be unfortunate."

British dock workers put off strike

LONDON (R) — Britain's dock workers put off a threatened strike ballot Friday and agreed to hold talks with employers on plans to end a scheme guaranteeing them jobs for life. The docks committee of the transport and general workers' (TGWU) executive had pressed the union to back an immediate strike vote. But after an all-day meeting of the union executive, TGWU leader Ron Todd told reporters it had agreed to meet employers Tuesday instead of having an immediate strike ballot. A spokesman for the employers association NAPE said it was "prepared to meet with (Todd) and listen to whatever he has to say to us." Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government announced plans last week to scrap the 40-year-old dock labour scheme that gave life-long tenure to 9,400 of Britain's 13,300 dock workers. The union said it intended to use all lawful means to oppose abolition of the dock labour scheme. Dockers registered under the scheme last year handled 60 per cent of the tonnage and 53 per cent of the value of Britain's seaborne trade.

Ceausescu wants law forbidding loans

VIENNA (R) — Romania, which has announced the repayment of its entire Western debt of more than \$11 billion, should adopt a law forbidding all foreign loans, President Nicolae Ceausescu said Friday. Ceausescu told a meeting of the Communist Party's Central Committee Romania would pursue economic development from its own resources, the official Agerpres news agency reported. "(Ceausescu) suggested the party Central Committee adopt a resolution — which the Grand National Assembly (parliament) should endorse as a law — to the effect that in the future nobody may resort to foreign credits, the country's entire development being attained by our own means — through broad international collaboration undoubtedly, but without credits," Agerpres said. Since the beginning of the 1980s Romania has staged an all-out export drive which caused chronic shortages of food, heating and lighting. As a result the country's living standard has dropped to one of the lowest in Europe. "In March we paid off the country's foreign debt which stood at over \$11 billion in 1980," Ceausescu told the committee meeting.

Scandal topples top Zimbabweans

HARARE (R) — Three more top Zimbabwean officials resigned Friday after being accused of black marketeering in cars by a judicial inquiry. President Robert Mugabe told a news conference. Describing them as "men of flesh like everybody else," he announced he had accepted the resignations of two ministers and a governor of a province. All three were accused of breaking the law in a report published Thursday by the Sandura Commission, set up by Mugabe to probe the so-called Willowgate scandal. Their disgrace followed the resignations in March of the defence minister and the junior minister for political affairs and the resignation two days ago of senior minister for political affairs. Mugabe also announced that he had accepted the resignation of junior minister for youth, sport and culture for corruption in a separate case. The report found that several ministers took advantage of a scheme to jump the queue for cars at state-owned Willowgate motors and made thousands of dollars in profits by selling them.

Europarlament urges strict measures to fight fraud

STRASBOURG, France (AP) — The European Parliament, upset at reports that about 10 per cent of the EC's annual budget disappears into swindlers' pockets, has asked for stricter budgetary control measures.

On Friday, it adopted a report on the issue by Piet Dankert. The Dutch Socialist told reporters he has uncovered a large-scale swindle involving milk products that cost EC taxpayers "several billion" dollars in recent years because of double payments.

His report blames fraud in general on EC legislation that is "excessively complex, incomplete and often ambiguous," the EC Commission, which drafts policies, and the Council of Ministers, which enacts them.

Both institutions fail "to anticipate whether or not it will be practicable to monitor the rules and regulations they draw up," the report said.

Independent experts say fraudulent actions use up about 10 per cent of the European Community's (EC) budget, which totals 45 billion European Currency Units (almost \$50 billion) this year.

"National specialists from detection agencies have recently established that criminal organisations like the Mafia and the IRA have been implicated," Dankert's report concluded.

But, it added, legitimate agencies also are implicated, notably in the agricultural sector, where legislative loopholes are used to claim subsidies several times for the same product.

Dankert's report blamed the Council of Ministers for having failed to give the Commission adequate monitoring powers over EC funds.

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مكتبة الجليل

Georgians bury their dead as criticism of troops grows

MOSCOW (R) — Thousands of people, many carrying black flags, joined funeral processions through the Georgian capital Tbilisi Saturday for the victims of clashes between troops and demonstrators in which 19 people were killed.

Authorities blocked the centre of Tbilisi to traffic as several corteges, each made up of a thousand or so people, made their way through the city to separate cemeteries, a journalist at the Georgian news agency Gruzinform told Reuters.

Local journalists said the city was calm, despite growing demands from the population for the withdrawal of troops, who used clubs — and according to some reports sharpened shovels — to break up last Sunday's demonstrations.

The soldiers, who apparently were sent in to Tbilisi earlier last weekend, maintained guard on key points of the city, some of them in tanks and armoured personnel carriers.

"The whole city is in mourning, most women are wearing black and some of the young people are carrying black flags," the Gruzinform journalist said.

He said fresh flowers covered the section of the Rustaveli Prospekt in front of the government building where 16 people, 10 of them women, were killed when troops broke up an all-night meeting of around 8,000 people. Three people died later in hospital.

The Gruzinform journalist put the number of funerals at 10. Another journalist said she believed eight people were being buried. Other funerals were due Sunday.

Local journalists said there had been little reaction in the city to the resignation of party leader Zviad Gamsakhurdia, elbowed out Friday as part of a major reshuffle of the republic's leadership.

Patiashvili, who publicly admitted he was wrong to call in the troops, was replaced as party leader by Givi Gumbardze, the former head of the KGB state security police.

The republic's Prime Minister Zurab Chkheidze was also replaced and President Otari Cherkedia announced he would resign.

The journalists said Tbilisi residents appeared to heap more blame on the regional military commander, Colonel-General Igor Radionov, and demanded soldiers be withdrawn from the city, leaving police to keep order.

"People are strongly against the presence of troops in the city, they are fed up with seeing soldiers armed to the teeth patrolling the streets," a journalist at Georgian Television said. "They

want to maintain calm with their own forces."

"They see the troops' presence here as a kind of moral pressure on the population," another journalist said. "It is like having a stranger in your home."

The army newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda Saturday defended the presence of troops in the city and said some "bitter-minded" people were trying to incite young people to attack them.

"In some districts military cars are being attacked with bottles and stones at night," it said.

Authorities investigating the clashes have been looking into reports that the troops used sharpened shovels as well as clubs against the crowd which chanted nationalist slogans.

Krasnaya Zvezda said Friday reports were circulating in Tbilisi that troops who broke up the demonstration had been drunk and had "butchered women and girls with military shovels." It quoted a medical student as saying he saw corpses with shovel wounds.

Tbilisi residents said the troops attacked the crowd with "uncontrolled fury" and several witnesses said local police had tried in vain to protect people from the onslaught.

A report by the Novosti News Agency said at least one of the 19 victims died of gas poisoning. Many others were apparently crushed in the crowd as troops moved in.

Communists, Solidarity prepare for polls

WARSAW (R) — Poland's Communist Party leadership Saturday began preparing for parliamentary elections that the opposition will contest for the first time since 1947.

The official PAP news agency said a plenary meeting of the 230-member Central Committee, the party's policy-making body, discussed strategy and adopted position papers to brush up the communists' image in readiness for the campaign.

Lech Walesa and the top leadership of the independent Solidarity Union also met Saturday in

the northern port city of Gdansk to discuss opposition strategy for the June poll.

The opposition has agreed to run for parliament for the first time since 1947 under liberalised election rules agreed at reform talks earlier this month.

There will be no direct competition for the 460-member Sejm (lower house) in which the opposition will run for 35 per cent of the seats and the communists and their allies for the other 65 per cent.

But the rival forces will clash in a race for a new democratically-

elected senate with 100 seats — the first free parliamentary body to be introduced in a wave of East Bloc reforms.

In Warsaw, a party source said one of the party documents spelled out progress in liquidating the communists' Stalinist heritage. Another gave "the whole truth" about Soviet responsibility for the Nazis for the start of World War II.

The source said the documents were intended to emphasise the party's patriotism and were part of a process of transforming it into "a normal, modern leftist party."

He said reformist party members felt it was moving towards transformation into a Western-style social democratic party capable of winning elections, although the party was not yet ready to adopt this as its official line.

The communists' election campaign shifts into top gear at a national conference May 4 and 5 at which they will hold a full debate on the documents and present their election programme to the nation.

Rebel attack kills 21 Sri Lankan soldiers

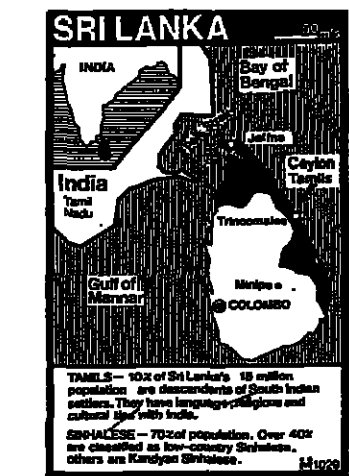
COLOMBO (Agencies) — Tamil separatist guerrillas killed 21 soldiers when they ambushed a military patrol in northern Sri Lanka Saturday, a military spokesman said.

Gunmen of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) set off an explosion as the patrol passed by, then raked the troops with volleys of gunfire, he added.

Another bomb exploded in the northern city of Jaffna, killing 12 people and seriously wounding 18, residents and military sources said Saturday.

They said the powerful bomb was being transported in a van Friday night when it exploded near Jaffna University damaging several nearby houses.

"Most of the people were killed as a result of the buildings collapsing on them," a Jaffna



journalist told Reuters by telephone.

He said a man died of a heart attack after his house collapsed.

"We don't know where and why the bomb was taken," the journalist said.

Jaffna, an almost entirely Tamil city of 133,000 people, was the Tigers' stronghold until October 1987 when Indian troops launched a military offensive against the rebels.

Bordes returns, ready to tell all

LONDON (R) — Pamela Bordes, the former beauty queen said to be involved in a House of Commons sex scandal, has returned to Britain ready to share her story with the security authorities and the readers of a tabloid newspaper.

"I am now ready to tell what I know. I feel I have kept quiet for too long," Bordes, 27, told the Evening Standard newspaper from her hideout somewhere in the south of England.

"After much heart-searching I am now prepared to make myself available to the authorities to answer any questions involving British or international security," she said.

Since she hit the headlines a month ago, feverish media coverage has linked her with two British Sunday newspaper editors, members of parliament and a top official of the Libyan secret service, prompting calls for a security inquiry.

Buckingham Palace took the highly unusual step of issuing a press statement aimed at clarifying the circumstances under which she met Captain Mark Phillips, the husband of Queen Elizabeth's daughter, Princess Anne.

Britain's tabloid newspapers had tracked her down to the tropical Indonesian island and then accompanied her to Hong Kong amid a scramble to buy up her story. The Daily Mail plans to start serialising it from next Monday.

It was not clear when she re-entered Britain.

Her media success has been clouded only by an article in the Sunday Telegraph which alleged that all the publicity had been carefully engineered by a top public relations man she had engaged to help her become an actress.

'Flamboyant' China leader dies at 73

PEKING (R) — Hu Yaobang, former Chinese Communist Party leader, died of a heart attack in Peking Saturday, the official New China News Agency said.

Hu, once the protégé of senior leader Deng Xiaoping and still a member of the party's powerful Politburo, was ousted in January, 1987, by party hardliners after a wave of student protests calling for more freedom and democracy.

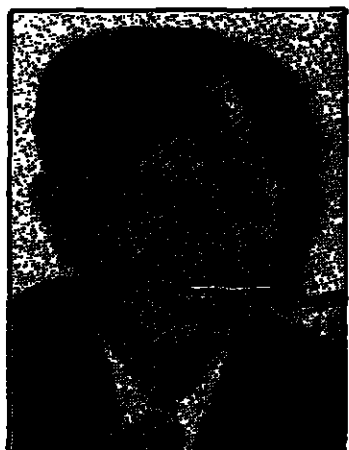
Hu, 73, suffered a heart attack April 8, the agency said. He was given all possible medical attention "but to no avail."

The agency said Hu had another sudden, major heart attack Saturday morning.

Western newspapers reported Hu suffered his first attack during a meeting of the Politburo last Saturday.

"I should point out that the fact he is ill has nothing directly to do with the Politburo meeting," Premier Li Peng told reporters Wednesday on leaving for Japan.

Li said he had visited Hu in



hospital April 9 and that his condition had improved.

Chinese sources said Hu had enjoyed little effective power within the Politburo since he was forced to resign in 1987.

Hu's liberal attitudes made him popular among foreign leaders and Chinese intellectuals but led to his downfall at the hands of party hardliners who accused him of allowing Western political ideas to spread unchecked.

He was succeeded as party general secretary by Zhao Ziyang, her apparent of the 84-year-old Deng.

A dapper chain-smoker, Hu made his last public appearance at the opening session of the National People's Congress, or parliament, on March 20, sitting alongside China's top leaders.

Pictures of him chatting amiably with Zhao were given prominence in national newspapers. Western diplomats said China was keen to project an image of unity despite internal political turmoil in recent years.

Taiwan may abandon vow to retake China

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — The Taiwan government may abandon a vow to reconquer the Chinese mainland if Peking recognises Nationalist sovereignty over Taiwan, Justice Minister Hsiao Tien-Tzang was quoted Saturday as saying.

A statement from the lawmaking legislature Yuan said Hsiao told the assembly Friday that all that is needed is for China to approve a "one China, two governments" formula being promoted by the Nationalists.

"Whether we continue to fight the communist rebels depends on the response from the other side of the Taiwan straits," Hsiao said.

Taiwanese newspapers, in dis-

patches from Tokyo, said Chinese Premier Li Peng, who is visiting Japan, rejected the Nationalists' suggestion Friday because it would require Peking to abrogate its one-China policy.

A decree spelling out Taiwan's aim of regaining the mainland, criticised by the opposition on the island, was imposed in 1949 when the Nationalists lost a civil war on the Chinese mainland and fled to Taiwan.

The decree also allowed the Nationalists to retain in office legislators who were elected on the mainland as a way of supporting the Nationalists' claim to be the legitimate government of all China.

Most of the legislators are

members of the ruling Nationalist Party and many of them are now elderly. The opposition claims the legislators are being retained to perpetuate Nationalist rule in Taiwan.

In February, the Nationalists tried to encourage about 200 aged legislators in the 297-seat legislative Yuan to retire with offers of large bonuses, but less than 10 have agreed to step down.

Hsiao's statement was in reply to demands by Huang Huang-Hsiung, a member of the opposition Democratic Progressive Party, to abolish the emergency decree. Huang said the Nationalist government "has in fact recognised Communist Chinese sovereignty over the people on

the mainland" by pursuing a more flexible policy toward China since last year.

For the past four decades, both the Nationalists and Communists have maintained that Taiwan is a Chinese province and that reunification will come under one government.

In 1987, the Nationalists ended 38 years of martial law and allowed the formation of new opposition parties, but they retained the emergency decree.

Taiwan announced last week that it will send an official delegation to mainland China for the first time to attend the annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank, which begins in Peking May 4.

China marks '1.1 billion day' with warning of national disaster

PEKING (R) — China declared its population reached 1.1 billion Friday, twice as big as at the time of the 1949 revolution, and warned of national disaster unless fresh efforts were made to enforce birth control.

Government leaders and the state-run media acknowledged that the country's draconian "one-child policy" had largely failed and said population could reach an intolerable two billion next century if birth control was neglected.

The People's Daily said China had made a grave mistake by rejecting the advice of population experts in the 1950s, but did not name the leader then — Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

Mao in the 1950s called birth control a "bloodless genocide" plotted by enemies of China and

attacked economist Ma Yichu for advocating it. Only in the 1970s were widespread population curbs introduced.

The estimate of 1.1 billion Friday is considered a low one by some Chinese researchers, one of whom told Reuters the country probably passed the figure in the latter half of 1988.

Vice-Premier Tian Jiyun told a Thursday meeting in the Great Hall of the People the outlook for economic growth was bleak if current birth rates continued, straining food supplies, health care, transport, housing and employment.

Tian attacked the "laissez-faire" attitude to birth rules in some rural areas, an apparent jab at local authorities who have relaxed them in the face of peasant hostility.

The People's Daily said the population would reach 1.7 billion to 1.8 billion in the middle of next century if present birth rates continued.

U.S. losing in U.N. votes

WASHINGTON (R) — Members of the United Nations voted with the United States on major issues only 15.22 per cent of the time in 1988, the lowest percentage in the six years figures have been compiled, according to a private study made available Friday.

It found that the top 50 recipients of U.S. foreign aid voted with Washington only 14.32 per cent of the time and with the Soviet Union 96.62 per cent of the time.

The study, by the conservative Heritage Foundation, concludes that the U.N. agenda "is largely inimical to U.S. interests" and that "the U.S. appears to be faring quite poorly at the U.N."

Analyst Mark Franz, who did the study, urged President Bush to "take these appalling figures to heart" and instruct U.N. Ambassador Thomas Pickering to advise U.N. member states their performance in the General Assembly "will have a bearing on their bilateral relationship" with Washington.

Decisions on U.S. foreign aid and loans should be based on a number of factors and U.N. voting records should be one of them, he said.

Since 1983, the State Department, under a congressional mandate, has produced an annual report analysing U.N. votes and the degree of support for U.S. positions on major issues.

A spokesman at the United States U.N. mission had no comment on the Heritage findings but said the latest State Department report on voting patterns would be out soon.

Egypt, the number two recipient of U.S. aid with an annual total of \$2.3 billion, voted with the United States 8.62 per cent of the time, while Pakistan another top recipient with an annual total of \$646 million, had a concurrence rate of 8.94, Franz said.

The Non-Aligned Movement bloc of 99 U.N. member states voted with the United States 9.5 per cent of the time and with the Soviet Union, 99.36 per cent of the time, he found.

Israel, the number one U.S. foreign aid recipient with an annual total of \$3 billion, voted with the United States 89.74 per cent of the time, Franz said.

Legal wrangle erupts over rival claims of marriage to ecologist

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — A legal struggle is on to decide who is the wife of the late, world-acclaimed Brazilian ecologist, Francisco "Chico" Mendes. According to a lawyer involved, the issue could determine the distribution of money paid by international filmmakers to bring his life story to overseas movie and TV screens.

Eunice Feitosa de Menezes, who claims to be Mendes' first and only legal wife, has asked a court in Acre state to confirm her marital status to Mendes.

Her lawyer said her only goal is to have her marriage recognised. But asked if she will try to obtain the film rights from Mendes' widow, Ilzamar Mendes, if the court finds in her favour, the lawyer said, "of course we will."

The case is expected to be considered by the court in two to three weeks.

Mendes, 44, a rubber tapper's union leader who fought to save the Amazon jungle from deforestation, became the focus of

world attention when he was gunned down by the son of a cattle rancher late last year outside his modest wooden house in the Acre jungle town of Xapuri, 4,300 kilometres northwest of Rio.

The death of Mendes, who had won a United Nations award for his struggle against Amazon ranchers eager to clear the rain forest for grazing, struck a deep chord worldwide.

Hollywood producers, eyeing the dramatic value of a story about a confrontation between ruthless, powerful Amazon landowners and humble rubber tree tappers, have rushed to inquire about shooting a movie about the life and death of Mendes, regarded by many as the world's first environmental martyr.

Robert Redford, representing 20th Century Fox; United Artists; Paramount Pictures; Warner Brothers Incorporated; U.S. Cable Television tycoon Ted Turner; and a slew of British

companies have made offers. Gilson Pescador, a member of the Chico Mendes Foundation, told the AP.

For the moment, the decision on who will get the authorised film rights, along with cooperation from Mendes' Brazilian colleagues, lies with a four-member panel from the foundation, an organisation made up of ecologists, rubber tappers and Mendes' family members. In mid-April, the committee began reviewing the various proposals.

But committee members are concerned that a court battle pitting Eunice Mendes against Ilzamar Mendes could discourage film producers and scuttle the project, said Pescador.

The project could bring as much as \$300,000 to the rubber tappers, Pescador said.

"We need economic resources to continue our work," he said. "The movement is in a delicate stage after Chico's death, and our opponents know it."

THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Etkens

REVERSEWORD

By W. Russell McDowell

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